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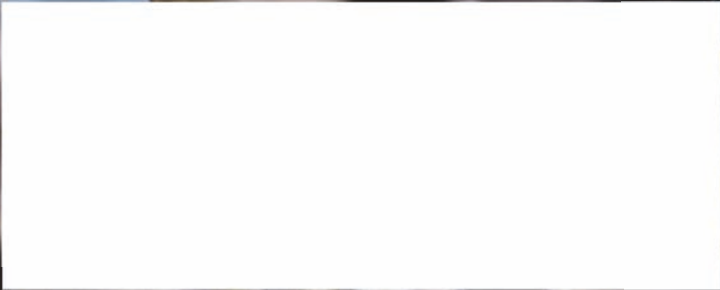
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Legion

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Follow news of National Commander Mike Helm as he represents The American Legion during the 2015 events June 5-8.



www.legion.org/commander

Photo by Jeff Stoffer



The American Legion Magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.3 million members. These wartime veterans, working through 14,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.

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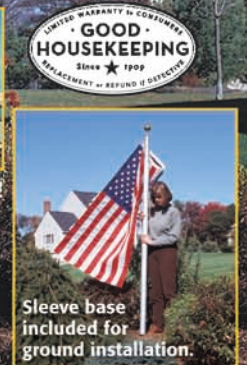
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'Air Apparent'

I served in the Strategic Air Command (SAC) at Blytheville Air Force Base from 1963 to 1966. I was a flight control and guidance system technician in the 97th Airborne Missile Maintenance Squadron.

The Air Force was the real deterrent that kept the United States from being attacked. Our B-52s and KC-135s did many sorties along the Arctic Circle, and the base went on high alert during the Cuban Missile Crisis. The AGM-28A was carried on pylons under each wing of the B-52. Thank God we didn't have to use them.

"Peace through strength" really works to deter aggressors. We never seem to learn from history. How sad.

— Robert G. Leddy, Blandon, Pa.

This article gave a fascinating history of the wars and conflicts in which our nation has been involved, beginning with World War I right on through the current state of affairs in the unstable Middle East. It was good to read about the significant role of America's air power in all of these struggles.

The article reminded me of the day in 1947 when President Harry Truman signed the National Security Act, elevating the Air Force into a separate branch. I was a senior in high school and could not fully understand what that meant for us and efforts to keep the peace.

— George F. Spieker, North Catasauqua, Pa.

This article and the so-called sequestration cause me to ask the question: why should our military budget be cut when it is about the lowest it has ever been and we are losing the ability to defend ourselves against all foreign adversaries (and there are several)? When was the last time money to welfare was cut?

— James A. Fitts Sr., Urbandale, Iowa

Vietnam's 'Senior Class'

I enjoyed the article by Ken Olsen (April). Having served in Vietnam from February 1962 to February 1963, I can attest to the fact that it is often forgotten when the history of our involvement in Vietnam is discussed. Slowly but surely, the Department of Defense and VA have recognized that period as a legitimate part of our country's overall participation in that conflict. Many, though, never received the recognition they deserved. Thank you for educating people about our part in "the rest of the story."

— Dick Yolevich, Hilton, N.Y.

My late father, Col. Armel Dyer, was assigned to MAAG Vietnam in 1957. I've often wondered why those who were stationed with various military groups up to the beginning date for inclusion of a bronze campaign star never received notable recognition. It would seem appropriate to authorize them the Vietnam Service Medal with no campaign star.

— Bruce Dyer, Susanville, Calif.



I arrived in country in 1964 and was assigned as a subsector commander way down in the Delta. I had a very small team. We were supposed to advise and assist a district government on matters of security and health. We were sitting ducks; there were no U.S. units assigned to that area, except helicopter units. We wore uniforms but were always on alert. Anything could have happened at any time and we could not have done much about it.

— Clyde Meyer, Monticello, Iowa

I am a Marine Corps veteran (1956 to 1959) who spent time in what was then called French Indochina. I was shot twice, have metal fragments in my knee and no medals. At my discharge I asked the presiding captain why my time spent there was not listed on my DD-214. His response was, "Son, you were never there, plus the U.S. has no presence in that country."

— Alan Toth, Crestline, Ohio

I arrived in Saigon in 1963 and was assigned to Headquarters Company, Headquarters Saigon. I wore the MAAG patch on my greens, and later the MAC-SOG patch on my fatigues. I had been serving as an assistant to the post Protestant chaplain at 6th Army Headquarters, Presidio of San Francisco, when I was "selected" by the Army CID to go to Vietnam. The main reason was that I could type.

I celebrated my 24th birthday in January 1962, so I was considered an old man by those in my training company at Fort

Leonard Wood, Mo. I was in the last training company there to be issued the M1 Garand. I was issued an M1A at 6th Army Headquarters and got my M1 back in Vietnam.

It's nice to see those who served be properly recognized for what they did.

— Wayne E. Parthun, Berwyn, Ill.

'The Power of Hate'

This article was very one-sided (April). I'm not a fan of Nazis, but I put radical Islam into the same category (if not worse). Yet Paul Glader seemed to concentrate on the evils of the right and very little on Islamic radicals. To me, Europe is the sick continent of the world. Its economy is in shambles and it is being overrun by Muslims, radical or otherwise. And the immigrants keep coming. France now denies it, but it's said that no-go zones exist where Muslim communities keep out police, firefighters and even ambulances. Most of the attacks against Jews in Europe are committed by people of the Islamic faith. With high unemployment and fear of offending Muslims, how will the situation get better?

— Tom R. Kovach, Nevis, Minn.

'Miraculous'

I just read James M. Scott's excerpt about the Doolittle Raid (April). I was a sailor on USS *Nashville*, part of the Navy's Task Force 16 that carried the Raiders to their mission.

As we sailed under the Golden Gate Bridge, our captain made the announcement what we were

doing. You can imagine what went through my head at that revelation. We were so proud to be part of the task force. The pilots and crews deserve credit for their courageous efforts.

Only two Raiders are still with us; I can't help wondering how many of Task Force 16 are living.

— Richard A. Egles, Branford, Fla.

Revamping military retirement

I read with interest Tom Philpott's column (Veterans Update, April), and it sounds great until you take into consideration that the military doesn't pay all that much. My sister was the wife of a sailor. On several occasions while he was in the military they ate popcorn for meals because they didn't make enough to buy food for their family of four. Military pay is notoriously not the best in the early years. With that in mind, how would entry-level soldiers save contributions to be matched? Yes, it does seem this revamp would save DoD billions.

— Malinda Brown, Eagle, Idaho

Regarding a 401(k)-type plan vs. a conventional military pension, I am for the change. I served 18 years, visiting five foreign countries. Since it wasn't 20 years, I got nothing. If my Army Reserve retirement system had been set up like my federal employee Thrift Savings Plan, I would at least have gotten the proportional 18/20ths I earned. "Twenty or nothing" is unfair to senior NCOs and officers who for whatever reason cannot complete 20 years.

— Eugene W. Smith, Concord, N.H.

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A year of hands-on help for veterans

One year ago, the Department of Veterans Affairs was in the throes of its greatest crisis. Veterans were dying as they waited for health care, administrators were falsifying records, poorly performing executives were receiving outlandish bonuses, and a culture of fear and retaliation discouraged whistleblowers from improving conditions.

An inspector general's report later revealed what The American Legion had been saying for months: the problems were not limited to the heavily reported abuses at the VA medical center in Phoenix. VA was experiencing a systemic failure in facilities across the country.

The crisis led to needed changes. The VA secretary and one undersecretary resigned. Congressional hearings ensued, and the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 was passed. And while progress has been painfully slow within VA, no program is doing more to change the lives of those affected by VA's problems than the Legion's own Veterans Benefit Centers (VBCs).

The first stop for the program was Phoenix, the epicenter of the crisis. Hundreds of veterans gathered last June at American Legion Post 1 for a town hall and told horror story after horror story of unanswered calls, insensitive health-care providers and extreme delays. National media considered the event ground zero for the entire VA crisis and swarmed to report on what was then called the American Legion Veterans Crisis Command Center (VCCC).

Most importantly, the Legion sent experts to help. An estimated 590 veterans were assisted with health-care enrollment, appointment scheduling, benefits applications and appeals representation. Four were granted 100 percent service-connected disability ratings on the spot at the Phoenix event, and one terminally ill veteran received benefits that will help his dependents pay for college. Another learned he was eligible for \$60,000 in retroactive disability pay. The Legion conducted similar events in North Carolina, Texas, Colorado, California, Missouri, Maryland, West Virginia, Hawaii, Oregon, Pennsylvania and Tennessee.

Michael Harvey, an Air Force veteran, suffered an eye injury and hearing loss while serving as an avionics technician. He is contesting his 10 percent disability rating and attended a VBC in Los Angeles. "The American Legion is going to help me on this appeal – and I have a contact in Washington, D.C., now," Harvey said. "This is like somebody throwing me a lifesaver. I was lost in the bureaucratic maze of VA."

Through the first 14 events, nearly 4,000 have been helped and more than \$1 million in retroactive benefits has been awarded to frustrated, homeless and disabled veterans. "We are here, in fact, to help," Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Commission Chairman Ralph Bozella said of the program, which is continuing with VBCs at least once a month through 2015, with new locations now being scheduled. You can follow these events at www.legion.org or, for a downloadable report about the events to date, click on "From Crisis to Confidence" at www.legion.org/publications. We are listening, learning and helping VA to change its culture, repair problems and, most importantly, restore trust among the veterans it was built to serve.




National Commander
Michael D. Helm

MEMORANDA

FLAG DAY

Flag Day is June 14, and The American Legion offers several resources for posts and individuals: a suggested speech available for download at www.legion.org/publications, U.S. Flag Code and "Let's Be Right on Flag Etiquette" booklets for purchase at [emblem.legion.org](http://www.legion.org/emblem), and the Flag Advocacy page on the Legion's national website (www.legion.org/flag), which has flag FAQs and more. Pause for the Pledge will take place at 7 p.m. Eastern June 14.

The Legion's **Flag Alert** e-newsletter is sent whenever the president calls for the flag to be flown at half-staff. Sign up for the e-newsletter online.

 www.legion.org/newsletters

4X4 UPDATE

By late April, National Commander Mike Helm's fundraising goal of \$4 million was nearing the finish line, at just over \$3.8 million.

Donations go toward American Legion Family programs. You can contribute to Legion or Auxiliary programs through these links.

 www.legion.org/donate

 www.alaforveterans.org/donate

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**Custom-crafted
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comfort knit with faux
Sherpa-lined hood*

BACK



FRONT



***Emblazoned with symbols of Marine Honor,
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Show your commitment to the Marines and the proud principles under which they serve every time you put on our new *"Always A Marine" Men's Hoodie*. Crafted in an easy-care tan cotton blend knit, the hoodie showcases a bold appliqué patch on the back that features the famous raising of our flag at Iwo Jima, the Marine emblem of eagle, globe and anchor, as well as the Marine motto—*Honor Courage Commitment*—embroidered below. Adding to this patriotic Marine Corps salute is an American flag patch on the left sleeve and USMC embroidered on the front.

But that's not all! There's plenty of custom detail throughout this apparel exclusive, like a comfortable brushed fleece interior and

a faux Sherpa-lined hood, generous kangaroo front pockets, knit cuffs and hem, a full front zipper, and silver-tone metal tippets on the hood drawstrings. Imported.

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TONY STEWART

Tony Stewart learned the importance of The American Legion growing up in his small hometown of Osborne, Kan. "Many places around town The American Legion helped build, so there was an American Legion presence all throughout my life," he says.

Knowing veterans helped instill in Stewart a deep respect for military service. "A lot of times, it's not smooth sailing when you're in your high school years or when you're developing who you want to be in life," he says. "You need those little constant reminders that service is an applicable and valuable thing to do. Having those reminders everywhere I went really reinforced it, so when the time was there for me to (consider service), it was part of me."

After his 20-year Navy career, Stewart is determined to give back, most notably through the Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors and programs for veterans struggling with homelessness or unemployment. He also connects active-duty servicemembers to the Legion through his job with Naval Special Warfare in San Diego, where he informs them of veteran-related community services.

Stewart is also dedicated to his community. For example, his post handed out 200 pairs of donated boots and T-shirts for homeless veterans, he says. "That spirit of community service has brought together three generations of people who served, and they say, 'Wow, I didn't know The American Legion did that.'"

BRANCH OF SERVICE Navy (1987-2007)

MOS Submarine yeoman

RANK Chief petty officer

AMERICAN LEGION POST Chula Vista Post 434, Chula Vista, Calif.

YEARS IN THE LEGION 17

LEGION OFFICES

- District commander (2014-present)
- District adjutant (2008-2009)
- Post commander (2010-2014)
- National Legislative Council member (2015-present)
- National Media & Communications Council member (2014-present)

"I felt like I had more to give, and with The American Legion, I found my golden ticket to do some more good in the world and the community where I live."



Watch an interview with Tony Stewart online:

 www.legion.org/magazine

See an archive of past interviews:

 www.legion.org/iamlegion

Photo by Lucas Carter

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Constitutional right to gay marriage



SUPPORT

Rep. Mark Takano, D-Calif.

■ Takano serves on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.



OPPOSE

Rep. Tim Huelskamp, R-Kan.

■ Huelskamp serves on the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

In April, the Supreme Court heard arguments in a case about families. Though much of the discussion will involve lofty issues like civil rights, liberty and individual freedom, in truth what the court will be deciding is if ours will be a nation that values some families more than others. I am hopeful that the justices will stand on the side of all of America's families and children by ensuring that loving, committed couples will have their relationships honored no matter their home state.

As I write this, American children of same-sex couples are waking up, eating breakfast and heading to school. Like their peers, they are our country's future. They will be our police officers, firefighters, teachers, doctors and soldiers. Families are as diverse as we are as a nation and come in all shapes and sizes. When two parents make the decision to raise a family, we have a responsibility to ensure that they have every opportunity to succeed.

Today, millions of same-sex couples are denied the fundamental right to marry, and their children live in uncertainty. Even if their parents are married in one state, that marriage may not be recognized if a job or military reassignment requires the family to cross state lines. No parents should have to choose between moving to improve their family's financial security or staying in a state where their family is recognized. Unfortunately, in today's America, many do.

America's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) citizens contribute to our prosperity, serve in our military and are an essential part of the fabric of our nation. We, and our children, deserve the stability and freedom that comes with marriage – no matter where we live.

THE HEART OF THE ISSUE

Advocates say a Supreme Court decision for a constitutional right to gay marriage will help families. Critics want the matter left to legislatures and the states.

The Supreme Court may deliver a fatal blow to the fundamental ideal of representative government by hearing cases on these questions: does the 14th Amendment somehow create a brand-new right to same-sex "marriage," and are states required to recognize licenses other states issue?

The Constitution nowhere mentions same-sex marriage, and the authors of "equal protection of the laws" would be shocked and outraged that anyone would

claim it grants such a "right." Indeed, until 2003, every single state affirmed natural marriage in its laws. And were it not for judges unilaterally redefining marriage, 39 states would still protect traditional marriage today.

The proper way to handle this is to allow debate and decision in the states, not to have elite federal judges impose their views on the rest of us. Citizens should voice their opinions through elections, and elected lawmakers should represent their constituents.

Indeed, in the *Windsor* case two years ago, the same Supreme Court protected our rights as states to define marriage. "The significance of state responsibilities for the definition and regulation of marriage dates to the nation's beginning," Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote. "When the Constitution was adopted the common understanding was that the domestic relations of husband and wife and parent and child were matters reserved to the states."

The Supreme Court should uphold the 6th Circuit rulings and allow U.S. citizens and their respective elected officials to make these decisions. The views of an appointed judicial minority in Washington are no constitutional substitute for representative government.

CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

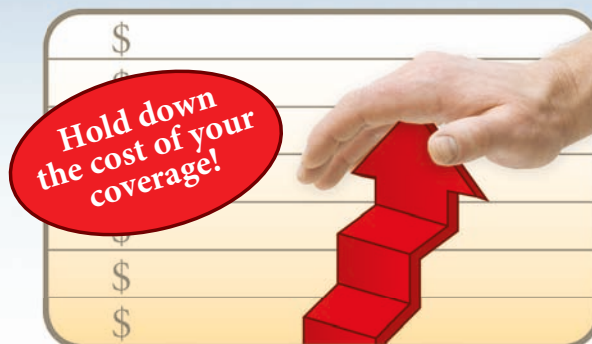
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| 50-54 | \$12.35 | \$10.15 | \$19.92 | \$16.25 | \$38.83 | \$31.50 | \$76.67 | \$62.00 |
| 55-59 | \$15.28 | \$11.50 | \$24.79 | \$18.50 | \$48.58 | \$36.00 | \$96.17 | \$71.00 |
| 60-64 | \$18.50 | \$13.75 | \$30.17 | \$22.25 | \$59.33 | \$43.50 | \$117.67 | \$86.00 |
| 65-69 | \$22.08 | \$17.05 | \$36.13 | \$27.75 | \$71.25 | \$54.50 | \$141.50 | \$108.00 |
| 70-74 | \$29.53 | \$22.30 | \$48.54 | \$36.50 | \$96.08 | \$72.00 | \$191.17 | \$143.00 |
| 75-79 | \$38.65 | \$30.70 | \$63.75 | \$50.50 | \$126.50 | \$100.00 | \$252.00 | \$199.00 |
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AFN45587

THE CHOLESTEROL CONUNDRUM



Media Bakery

BY MICHELLE GIBEAULT TRAUB

For the 31 million adults with elevated cholesterol levels, new research points to a host of healthy choices they can start making today.

HEALTHY LIFESTYLE FIRST The most heart-healthy activities include exercising regularly, avoiding tobacco, maintaining a healthy weight, limiting stress and making healthy food choices. Sounds easy enough, yet it leads to a tricky question: “What should I eat?”

NO LONGER LOW-FAT Previous recommendations for a low-cholesterol diet focused on following a low-fat regimen and keeping cholesterol intake to less than 300 mg per day. But a preliminary review released earlier this year by the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee suggests a new approach. The committee concluded that there is not enough scientific evidence to avoid cholesterol in foods; it also indicated that it is the type of fat that is important, not just the amount. This supports many studies showing that unsaturated fats – like those found in fish and plant foods such as nuts, olives and avocados – are actually good for heart health.

THE REAL CULPRIT In the past, an elevated low-density lipoprotein (LDL, or “bad” cholesterol) level had been the clearest risk factor for heart disease. Since numerous studies showed that saturated and trans fats can increase LDL levels, it led to the belief that those fats were the main cause of heart disease. That is only partially true. LDL does contribute to fatty deposits that build up in the arteries, potentially leading to heart attack or stroke. But the actual trigger for a deadly blockage is inflammation in the body that aggravates arteries’ lining. The dietary causes of inflammation tend to be not just saturated and trans fats, but also added sugars. In addition, stress, smoking or uncontrolled diabetes can also lead to dangerous inflammation.

REDUCING INFLAMMATION Avoiding packaged and processed foods in favor of whole, natural foods is one of the most effective ways to lower inflammation in the body. Evidence has also shown that consuming foods and drinks high in antioxidants can lower inflammation and promote heart health.

See **CHOLESTEROL** on page 17

The world is filled with air.



COPD MAKES IT HARD TO BREATHE AIR. ANORO HELPS YOU BREATHE AIR BETTER.

(COPD is chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)

APPROVED USE

ANORO ELLIPTA is a prescription medicine used to treat chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) in adults. COPD is a chronic lung disease that includes chronic bronchitis, emphysema, or both. ANORO ELLIPTA is used long term as 1 inhalation, 1 time each day, to improve symptoms of COPD for better breathing. ANORO is not used to treat sudden symptoms of COPD and won't replace a rescue inhaler. ANORO is not for the treatment of asthma.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION

- ANORO ELLIPTA is only approved for use in COPD. ANORO is NOT approved for use in asthma.
- People with asthma who take long-acting beta₂-adrenergic agonist (LABA) medicines, such as vilanterol (one of the medicines in ANORO), have an increased risk of death from asthma problems. It is not known if LABA medicines increase the risk of death in people with COPD.
- Call your healthcare provider if breathing problems worsen over time while using ANORO.
- Get emergency medical care if your breathing problems worsen quickly or if you use your rescue inhaler but it does not relieve your breathing problems.
- Do not use ANORO to treat sudden symptoms of COPD. Always have a rescue inhaler with you to treat sudden symptoms.
- ANORO is not for the treatment of asthma. It is not known if ANORO is safe and effective in people with asthma.
- Do not use ANORO if you have a severe allergy to milk proteins or any of the ingredients in ANORO. Ask your healthcare provider if you are not sure.
- Do not use ANORO more often than prescribed.

ANORO ELLIPTA is the first FDA-approved product that contains 2 long-acting bronchodilators in 1 inhaler. Once-daily ANORO helps you breathe better for a full 24 hours. Your results may vary.

In clinical trials, ANORO ELLIPTA helped people breathe air better than SPIRIVA® HandiHaler®**

*Results shown in 2 of 3 clinical trials. Individual results may vary. SPIRIVA contains 1 long-acting bronchodilator and is used to treat COPD and reduce COPD flare-ups. ANORO is not approved to reduce COPD flare-ups. Each product has its own risks and benefits.

(Important Safety Information, cont'd)

- Do not take ANORO with other medicines that contain a LABA or an anticholinergic for any reason. Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take and about all of your health conditions. Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take anticholinergics, including tiotropium, ipratropium, acclidinium, or atropine.
- ANORO ELLIPTA can cause serious side effects, including:
 - sudden breathing problems immediately after inhaling your medicine
 - serious allergic reactions. Call your healthcare provider or get emergency medical care if you get any of the following symptoms of a serious allergic reaction: rash; hives; swelling of the face, mouth, and tongue; breathing problems.
 - effects on your heart: increased blood pressure; fast and/or irregular heartbeat; chest pain
 - effects on your nervous system: tremor; nervousness
 - new or worsened eye problems, including acute narrow-angle glaucoma. Acute narrow-angle glaucoma can cause permanent loss of vision if not treated. Symptoms of acute narrow-angle glaucoma may include: eye pain or discomfort; nausea or vomiting; blurred vision; seeing halos or bright colors around lights; red eyes. If you have these symptoms, call your doctor right away before taking another dose.
 - urinary retention. People who take ANORO may develop new or worse urinary retention. Symptoms of urinary retention may include: difficulty urinating; painful urination; urinating frequently; urination in a weak stream or drips. If you have these symptoms of urinary retention, stop taking ANORO and call your doctor right away before taking another dose.
 - changes in laboratory blood levels, including high levels of blood sugar (hyperglycemia) and low levels of potassium (hypokalemia)
- Common side effects of ANORO include: sore throat; sinus infection; lower respiratory infection; common cold symptoms; constipation; diarrhea; pain in your arms or legs; muscle spasms; neck pain; chest pain.

You are encouraged to report negative side effects of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit www.fda.gov/medwatch, or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

Please see Brief Summary of Prescribing Information for ANORO ELLIPTA on the following pages.

*SPIRIVA and HandiHaler are registered trademarks owned by Boehringer Ingelheim.

ANORO ELLIPTA was developed in collaboration with Theravance



Talk to your doctor about ANORO.
Visit ANORO.com and sign up for savings.*

*Subject to eligibility. Restrictions apply. See ANORO.com for eligibility rules.



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ANORO® ELLIPTA®
(umecidinium 62.5 mcg and vilanterol 25 mcg inhalation powder)

ANORO[®] ELLIPTA[®]

(umeclidinium 62.5 mcg and vilanterol 25 mcg inhalation powder)

BRIEF SUMMARY

Read the Medication Guide that comes with ANORO ELLIPTA before you start using it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This summary does not take the place of talking to your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

What is the most important information I should know about ANORO ELLIPTA?

ANORO ELLIPTA is only approved for use in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). ANORO ELLIPTA is NOT approved for use in asthma.

ANORO ELLIPTA can cause serious side effects, including:

- **People with asthma who take long-acting beta₂-adrenergic agonist (LABA) medicines, such as vilanterol (one of the medicines in ANORO ELLIPTA), have an increased risk of death from asthma problems.**
- **It is not known if LABA medicines, such as vilanterol (one of the medicines in ANORO ELLIPTA), increase the risk of death in people with COPD.**
- **Call your healthcare provider if breathing problems worsen over time while using ANORO ELLIPTA.** You may need different treatment.
- **Get emergency medical care if:**
 - your breathing problems worsen quickly
 - you use your rescue inhaler, but it does not relieve your breathing problems.

What is ANORO ELLIPTA?

ANORO ELLIPTA combines an anticholinergic, umeclidinium, and a LABA medicine, vilanterol.

Anticholinergic and LABA medicines help the muscles around the airways in your lungs stay relaxed to prevent symptoms such as wheezing, cough, chest tightness, and shortness of breath. These symptoms can happen when the muscles around the airways tighten. This makes it hard to breathe.

ANORO ELLIPTA is a prescription medicine used to treat COPD. COPD is a chronic lung disease that includes chronic bronchitis, emphysema, or both. ANORO ELLIPTA is used long term as 1 inhalation, 1 time each day, to improve symptoms of COPD for better breathing.

- **ANORO ELLIPTA is not for use to treat sudden symptoms of COPD.** Always have a rescue inhaler (an inhaled, short-

acting bronchodilator) with you to treat sudden symptoms. If you do not have a rescue inhaler, contact your healthcare provider to have one prescribed for you.

- **ANORO ELLIPTA is not for the treatment of asthma. It is not known if ANORO ELLIPTA is safe and effective in people with asthma.**
- ANORO ELLIPTA should not be used in children. It is not known if ANORO ELLIPTA is safe and effective in children.

Who should not use ANORO ELLIPTA?

Do not use ANORO ELLIPTA if you:

- have a severe allergy to milk proteins. Ask your healthcare provider if you are not sure.
- are allergic to umeclidinium, vilanterol, or any of the ingredients in ANORO ELLIPTA. See “What are the ingredients in ANORO ELLIPTA?” on next page for a complete list of ingredients.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before using ANORO ELLIPTA?

Tell your healthcare provider about all of your health conditions, including if you:

- have heart problems
- have high blood pressure
- have seizures
- have thyroid problems
- have diabetes
- have liver problems
- have eye problems such as glaucoma. ANORO ELLIPTA may make your glaucoma worse.
- have prostate or bladder problems, or problems passing urine. ANORO ELLIPTA may make these problems worse.
- are allergic to any of the ingredients in ANORO ELLIPTA, any other medicines, or food products. See “What are the ingredients in ANORO ELLIPTA?” on next page for a complete list of ingredients.
- have any other medical conditions
- are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. It is not known if ANORO ELLIPTA may harm your unborn baby.
- are breastfeeding. It is not known if the medicines in ANORO ELLIPTA pass into your milk and if they can harm your baby.

Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. ANORO ELLIPTA and certain other medicines may interact with each other. This may cause serious side effects.

Especially tell your healthcare provider if you take:

- anticholinergics (including tiotropium, ipratropium, aclidinium)
- atropine

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of them to show your healthcare provider and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

How should I use ANORO ELLIPTA?

Read the step-by-step instructions for using ANORO ELLIPTA at the end of the Medication Guide.

- **Do not** use ANORO ELLIPTA unless your healthcare provider has taught you how to use the inhaler and you understand how to use it correctly.
- Use ANORO ELLIPTA exactly as your healthcare provider tells you to use it. **Do not** use ANORO ELLIPTA more often than prescribed.
- Use 1 inhalation of ANORO ELLIPTA 1 time each day. Use ANORO ELLIPTA at the same time each day.
- If you miss a dose of ANORO ELLIPTA, take it as soon as you remember. Do not take more than 1 inhalation each day. Take your next dose at your usual time. Do not take 2 doses at one time.
- If you take too much ANORO ELLIPTA, call your healthcare provider or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away if you have any unusual symptoms, such as worsening shortness of breath, chest pain, increased heart rate, or shakiness.
- **Do not use other medicines that contain a LABA or an anticholinergic for any reason.** Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist if any of your other medicines are LABA or anticholinergic medicines.
- Do not stop using ANORO ELLIPTA unless told to do so by your healthcare provider because your symptoms might get worse. Your healthcare provider will change your medicines as needed.
- **ANORO ELLIPTA does not relieve sudden symptoms.** Always have a rescue inhaler with you to treat sudden symptoms. If you do not have a rescue inhaler, call your healthcare provider to have one prescribed for you.
- Call your healthcare provider or get medical care right away if:
 - your breathing problems get worse
 - you need to use your rescue inhaler more often than usual

(continued on next page)

- your rescue inhaler does not work as well to relieve your symptoms

What are the possible side effects with ANORO ELLIPTA?

ANORO ELLIPTA can cause serious side effects, including:

- **See “What is the most important information I should know about ANORO ELLIPTA?”**
- **sudden breathing problems immediately after inhaling your medicine**
- **serious allergic reactions.** Call your healthcare provider or get emergency medical care if you get any of the following symptoms of a serious allergic reaction:
 - rash
 - hives
 - swelling of the face, mouth, and tongue
 - breathing problems
- **effects on your heart**
 - increased blood pressure
 - a fast and/or irregular heartbeat
 - chest pain
- **effects on your nervous system**
 - tremor
 - nervousness
- **new or worsened eye problems, including acute narrow-angle glaucoma.** Acute narrow-angle glaucoma can cause permanent loss of vision if not treated. Symptoms of acute narrow-angle glaucoma may include:
 - eye pain or discomfort
 - nausea or vomiting
 - blurred vision
 - seeing halos or bright colors around lights
 - red eyes

If you have these symptoms, call your doctor right away before taking another dose.

- **urinary retention.** People who take ANORO ELLIPTA may develop new or worse urinary retention. Symptoms of urinary retention may include:
 - difficulty urinating
 - painful urination
 - urinating frequently
 - urination in a weak stream or drips

If you have these symptoms of urinary retention, stop taking ANORO ELLIPTA

and call your doctor right away before taking another dose.

- **changes in laboratory blood levels,** including high levels of blood sugar (hyperglycemia) and low levels of potassium (hypokalemia)

Common side effects of ANORO ELLIPTA include:

- sore throat
- sinus infection
- lower respiratory infection
- common cold symptoms
- constipation
- diarrhea
- pain in your arms or legs
- muscle spasms
- neck pain
- chest pain

Tell your healthcare provider about any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

These are not all the side effects with ANORO ELLIPTA. Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for more information.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

What are the ingredients in ANORO ELLIPTA?

Active ingredients: umeclidinium, vilanterol

Inactive ingredients: lactose monohydrate (contains milk proteins), magnesium stearate

Ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist for additional information about ANORO ELLIPTA. You can also contact the company that makes ANORO ELLIPTA (toll free) at 1-888-825-5249 or at www.myANORO.com.

ANORO and ELLIPTA are registered trademarks of the GSK group of companies.

ANORO ELLIPTA was developed in collaboration with Theravance.



GlaxoSmithKline
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

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May 2014

ANR:2MG

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Media Bakery

CHOLESTEROL continued
from page 14

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Remember, diet is only able to lower cholesterol levels by approximately 20 to 40 percent. A truly heart-healthy lifestyle requires a multipronged approach. It is important to exercise daily while incorporating activities that lower stress.

A PERSONALIZED APPROACH

Given all the factors involved in an individual's heart health, it is important to consult with a trusted physician. Based on your risk factors and current lifestyle, your doctor may suggest a statin medication to help lower cholesterol levels quickly. They are effective, but as with any prescription drug can result in side effects. Don't be afraid to discuss the pros and cons of all your treatment options to clear up any cholesterol confusion and find the heart-health plan that is right for you.

Michelle Gibeault Traub is a dietitian and health writer in Connecticut.

Living Well is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their physicians when they have health problems.

THE HELP NEAREST YOU?

According to a National Center for Health Statistics study, not everyone in a medical crisis heads for the closest emergency department.

6.8 Average miles from a patient's residence to a visited emergency department in 2009-2010

3.9 Average miles from a patient's residence to the nearest emergency department

43.8 Percent of all visits that occurred at the closest emergency department

Some of the factors in the difference include patients' ages, hospital sizes and wait times. Patients living in a metropolitan statistical area were less likely to visit the nearest emergency department.

Source: National Hospital Ambulatory Medical Care Survey



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FIRST AID ON THE GO

Having certain health-care items on hand can mean a quick and effective response to common injuries and minor emergencies, says Wilfredo Solis, a Desert Storm Army veteran and American Red Cross station manager at Fort Jackson, S.C.

You can buy first-aid kits for your home and car or assemble them yourself, he says. A kit should include:

Bandages Include assorted sizes as well as gauze pads, a roll of elastic wrap and adhesive tape.

Antiseptic solution or antiseptic wipes to clean wounds and bug bites

Cotton balls and cotton-tipped swabs to apply cleansers and medications

Ice packs and heat packs to ease swelling Packs that heat or cool when snapped or squeezed are best for long-term storage.

Medications such as anti-diarrhea medication, over-the-counter antihistamines, hydrocortisone cream, and pain relievers such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen. If someone in the family has allergies, you absolutely need drugs to treat a severe allergic reaction, such as an auto-injector of epinephrine.

Scissors and tweezers Scissors can cut clothing or bandages and open packages. Tweezers may be needed to remove thorns, splinters and insect stingers.

Thermometer A high temperature could be an indication of whether you may need immediate medical attention.

Check your first-aid kit periodically to be sure supplies have not expired.



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Poison ivy remedies

With summer here, *Pharmacy Times* and *U.S. News & World Report* have listed pharmacists' top choices for over-the-counter poison ivy relief.

| Product | Percent of pharmacists who recommend it |
|---------------------|---|
| Cortizone 10 | 22 |
| Caladryl | 16 |
| Ivy-Dry | 12 |

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VA: 'We bungled' Denver project

BY TOM PHILPOTT

VA Deputy Secretary Sloan Gibson has had some difficult days testifying before Congress since his appointment in 2014 amid the department's burgeoning patient wait-time scandal.

But for real discomfort, it would be hard to top his April 15 testimony before the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, when Gibson tried to explain how VA officials responsible for construction oversight of a new Denver medical center in Aurora, Colo., misspent hundreds of millions of dollars through mismanagement and professional incompetence.

Until VA began building new medical centers in 2004, it had gone 17 years without a major construction project and "lost its competency to do that," Gibson said. "We were not ready for it as an organization. And we bungled it!"

The one skill VA construction managers and supervisors clearly did have was an ability to hide the consequences of their poor decisions, in part by punishing those who tried to sound alarms that costs were out of control. The half-built Denver medical center, with a glass atrium larger than three football fields, was estimated to cost less than \$600 million when construction began. This year, VA officials conceded that the project cannot be completed for less than \$1.7 billion, promising to transfer management to the Army Corps of Engineers.

"If that wasn't enough," said chairman Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., "VA has informed the committee that Denver has a significant space need now of more than 550,000 gross square feet; that is above the space that will be provided in the new medical center." So in summary, the project "is \$1 billion over budget, several years behind schedule and, on the day it opens, will apparently be too small."

"There's no way to explain this incompetence," Rep. Phil Roe, R-Tenn., told Gibson. "You put us in the ultimate catch-22. We don't want to go ahead and we can't quit."

Last year, as part of the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act, Congress gave VA an additional \$5 billion to beef up medical staff and

examining room spaces to see more patients. VA is now asking that \$830 million of that be reauthorized to complete the Denver facility.

Gibson blamed the cost overrun on the department's failure to lock down the building's design early on; design features like the atrium that added costs; construction inflation in the Denver market, which VA failed to negotiate effectively; and premiums paid to contractors for perceived risk given the project's history.

VA first developed a plan to build a 1.4 million-square-foot complex in Denver in 2006. By 2010 it had revised the plan to a 945,000-square-foot facility. The strategy was to complete design before soliciting construction proposals. But in 2010, "in a misguided effort to get work underway," VA changed to an "integrated design and construct" strategy to get early contractor involvement from the firm Kiewit-Turner, Gibson said.

By then, design work had been underway for 15 months, "limiting the ability of KT to influence design and cost." Indeed, the contractor said the project as designed couldn't be built for \$600 million. Under pressure to move forward, VA and the contractor executed an option in November 2011 to construct the project, Gibson said.

With the design 65 percent complete, VA promised a final design that could be built for \$600 million. That promise and shift in strategy were "watershed events" for eventual runaway costs.

Construction proceeded as VA's relationship with Kiewit-Turner became increasingly strained. In July 2013, the firm filed a complaint with the Civilian Board of Contract Appeals. In December 2014, the board found VA in breach of contract for failure to provide a design that met the price.

With the Denver project just the latest in a long line of VA projects with huge cost overruns, Congress is losing all confidence in VA's ability to manage any major construction projects.



Department of Veterans Affairs Deputy Secretary Sloan Gibson speaks during a news conference at the construction site of the new Denver VA hospital in Aurora, Colo., on April 2. AP/David Zalubowski

Tom Philpott has been covering military personnel and veterans issues for more than 30 years.

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CRIMINAL MINDS

Military action alone won't stop the Islamic State. Attack it as a business by cutting off funds and undermining its messaging.

BY LOUISE I. SHELLEY



The sweep of the Islamic State (ISIS) through Sunni Iraq in 2014 was, in part, the result of many poorly conceived policy decisions dating to the earliest days of post-invasion Iraq. The abolition of the Iraqi army, the badly executed process of de-Baathification, the incarceration of Baathists and terrorists together, and the corruption of the Maliki government all stirred enormous anger among the Sunni population. These resentments fermented in the toxic brew of Syrian chaos that incubated ISIS, an environment outside the control of the United States and NATO.

ISIS overcame the Iraqi security forces because it combined the skills of Al-Qaida of Iraq (AQI) with those of top former officials of Saddam Hussein, experienced in smuggling and illicit trade. The profits of its criminal activities and effective use of corruption have equipped it with more tanks than those deployed by some leading NATO members. ISIS has modern and sophisticated weaponry, and recruits personnel internationally through advanced media campaigns and messaging on Twitter and other forms of communication. With its flexible and innovative business strategies, ISIS cannot be dislodged solely through military bombing campaigns or even boots on the ground.

ISIS' rapid advance in Sunni Iraq was surprising to the U.S. government, which did not expect the complete and immediate collapse of Iraqi security forces. Yet the resentments among the Sunni population and the displaced Baathists accumulated for over a decade, making them unwilling to fight ISIS. Moreover, the corruption of the military in the region made it incapable of defending the Sunni population.

The United States is focusing on state actors, whereas the most significant threat in the Middle East is non-state actors such as ISIS. We need to understand that we face a new kind of threat that does not come from countries but from criminalized terrorist groups that behave like multinational illicit businesses. Our challenge is to not only cut off their funds but also to undermine their global recruitment and marketing strategies. In other words, we need to respond to them as we would a successful business competitor. This requires policies that are not dependent solely on military force but on diverse branches of government working together in cooperation with the private sector.

As I was concluding my book "Dirty Entanglements: Corruption, Crime and Terrorism" in October 2013, I predicted – based on extensive interviews with military personnel (many in top

decision-making positions), policy advisers and local experts in the region – that the greatest threat to the United States would come out of Syria. Approximately nine months later, ISIS left Syria and took over Sunni Iraq.

POST-INVASION POLICIES The Sunni population dominated the military and governance structures of Hussein's Iraq. His Baathist party controlled the levers of power. To make sure his ruling elite never returned, much effort was made by U.S. military leadership in Iraq to disband the structures that helped him rule. It dissolved the Iraqi army in May 2003, a decision that was never carefully analyzed before implementation. Five years later, it was already clear to many senior U.S. officials that the Sunnis who had once led the army would become a powerful insurgency that would be directed against American forces.

The Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) in Iraq, led by the United States, promoted a comprehensive policy of de-Baathification. Unlike U.S. efforts to de-Nazify Germany after World War II, in which officials' pasts were carefully reviewed and not everyone was removed, de-Baathification in Iraq was sweeping and without the vetting of individuals. Rather, there were mass removals of Sunni personnel, the only ones with experience in governmental administration. Wholesale dismissals of former Baathists without hearings and due process fostered resentment and resulted in a nonfunctional government.

Camp Bucca, a huge prison that once held 100,000 prisoners, was the seedbed of ISIS. In "Dirty Entanglements," I explain that prisons are no longer institutions of control, but corporate headquarters for crime-terror interactions. Camp Bucca served this function when, in 2007, the overcrowded facility was filled with extremists. Prisoners were separated along religious lines: Sunnis together and Shias together. From this came the strange merger of incarcerated ex-Baathists with jihadis that is now the contemporary ISIS. The jihadis acquired administrative skills from the former Baathists with years of administrative experience governing Iraq under Hussein. The jailed Baathists, angry at their incarceration, found common cause with the religious extremists. Hence ISIS, incorporating former senior government officials, has more highly skilled personnel than al-Qaida and any other jihadi organizations that preceded it.

The leader of ISIS, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, spent years in Camp Bucca. He assumed a position of



In a photo posted online April 7, Islamic State militants wave their flag in the Yarmouk Palestinian camp, located in a suburb of Damascus, Syria, that is partially under the group's control. Photo by Balkis Press/Sipa USA (Sipa via AP Images)

authority within the prison and was called on to mediate disputes. His incarceration and the authority he enjoyed gave him access to prisoners who became the leaders of ISIS. Seventeen of the Islamic State's 25 top leaders spent time in U.S. prisons between 2004 and 2011.

When the U.S. government saw the Iran-supported Shiites assuming disproportionate power under Maliki, it did not take action addressing the grievances of the rest of the population – mainly Kurds or Sunnis accustomed to political power under Hussein. Under the Maliki government, the oil revenues of the Iraqi state went to the Shia population and a small percentage went to the Kurds in the north, but the Sunnis received almost nothing from the central government. Sunni anger was so strong that it contributed to the sectarian violence and conflict we see today, and to the unwillingness of Sunni citizens to defend the Iraqi state against ISIS.

The failure to share revenues was only one element of Maliki's corruption. Top positions were given to his Shia cronies, Sunni leaders were marginalized, and basic services were not provided to the large territory now governed by ISIS. Protests against the Maliki government began in the Sunni region shortly after the start of the Arab Spring. But protesters were branded as terrorists and treated brutally. In the year before ISIS' takeover, another wave of mass protests against the Maliki government was suppressed by Iraqi security

forces. These events, lightly reported in the U.S. press, are key to understanding the rising militancy in Sunni areas.

In this context, the failure of the Iraqi forces in the Sunni region to take up arms against ISIS is hardly surprising. For the Sunnis, it was a choice between two bads: a corrupt and brutal government in Baghdad, or ISIS. They chose ISIS because they would not die to support the Maliki government.

Again, Syria was the incubator for ISIS. During the U.S.-led war in Iraq, Assad's government gave extremists shelter and allowed them to train, receive weapons and generate funds. He must have believed he could control these elements. But that illusion was shattered when the Syrian civil war began. The chaos provided a place for various extremist groups to congeal in the organization now known as ISIS and prepare for its next phase of expansion. That expansion, initially to Iraq, now extends to groups from Afghanistan to North Africa, and most recently to West Africa.

REVENUE AND RECRUITMENT ISIS has succeeded in acquiring personnel, weapons and funds because it functions like a business. In fact, it is the most effective terrorist business known. Crime and corruption have been key to its acquisition of weapons, revenue generation and mobility across the region. To ensure its ongoing operations, ISIS seeks a product mix, acquiring professional services globally, forming strategic alliances,

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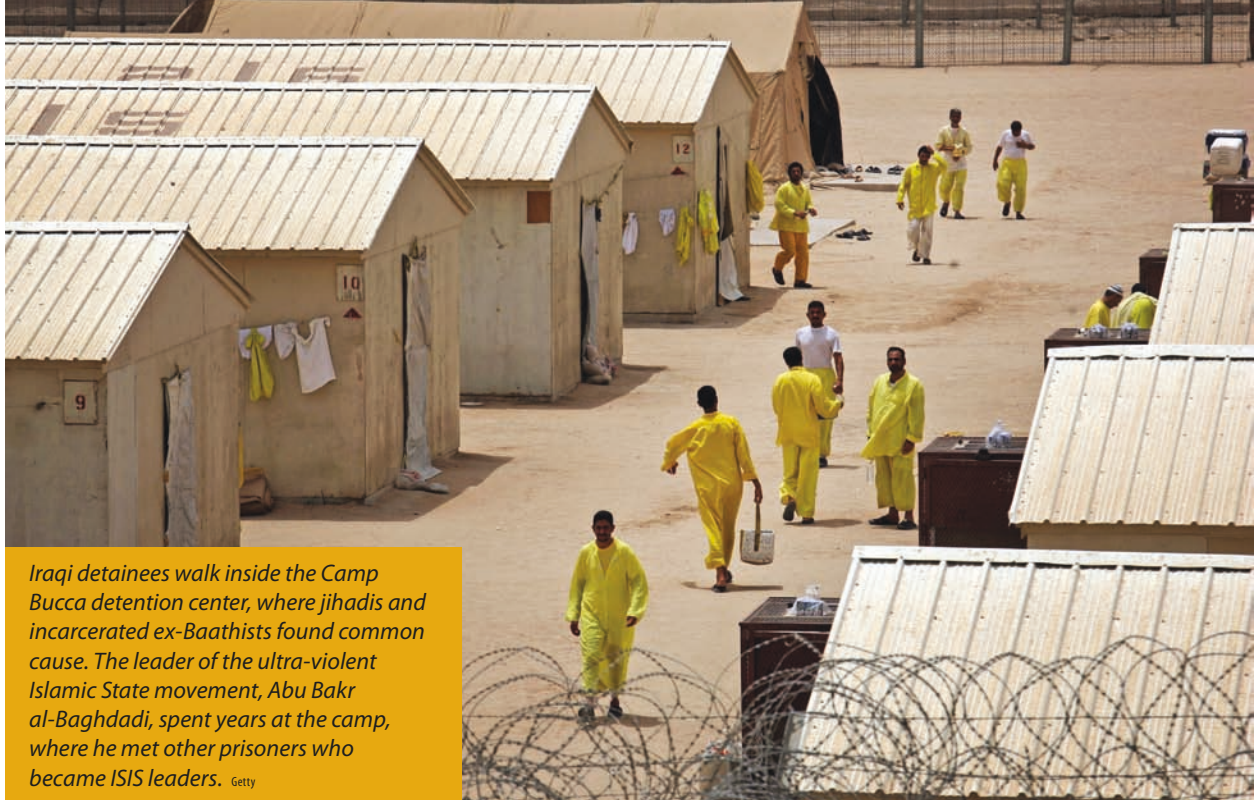


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Iraqi detainees walk inside the Camp Bucca detention center, where jihadis and incarcerated ex-Baathists found common cause. The leader of the ultra-violent Islamic State movement, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, spent years at the camp, where he met other prisoners who became ISIS leaders. Getty

seizing targets of opportunity and making innovative use of technology. Significant revenues have allowed ISIS to buy weapons from Libya and obtain a good percentage of U.S. weapons supplied to the Syrian rebels.

The Islamic State has successfully adopted the techniques of modern marketing, using social media to not only convey its brutality but also recruit. This recruitment has worked best outside the United States, in countries where individuals can more easily access ISIS' controlled territory. In Europe, ISIS-sponsored social media cleverly recruits among disenfranchised and often disenchanted youth. Many have criminal pasts, contributing to the particular violence of the group, highlighted by recent attacks in France and Denmark by ISIS supporters with prison records. Many recruits have been drawn to the mythical idea of the caliphate, sold to them as a paradise – an ideal that contrasts with the marginalized lives they are currently living.

ISIS also capitalizes on its geographic location. What sets terrorist businesses apart from criminal ones is that crime is a means of achieving their political as well as their economic goals. For instance, the kidnapping of community members demoralizes society even as it generates revenue. Sales of passports and counterfeit documents provide money and mobility for fighters. But ISIS is a diversified criminal economy, and its sources of income are more diverse than those of Iraq and the countries that surround it. ISIS generates money from the illicit cigarette trade, antiquities trade,

kidnapping, human smuggling and trafficking, sale of the oil from fields they control, and extortion and “taxation” of communities they occupy. U.S.-led bombing has slowed some of the oil revenue, which used to total at least \$1 million a day. So ISIS is generating more money by taxing the trade in Captagon, a synthetic drug sold extensively throughout the Gulf region, where the possibility of stopping drug flows and the profits generated from this trade is limited.

ISIS is also capable of strategic alliances, establishing links with other jihadi groups and helping them publicize and recruit. Many of the terrorist groups operating in Africa and the Middle East evolved out of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida central, which still operates in the Afghanistan-Pakistan border area. But al-Qaida has many offshoots, the best known of which are AQIM (Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb), AQAP (Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula) based in Yemen, and AQI, which evolved into ISIS. There are other, smaller terrorist groups that operate in the region too, shaped by cultural, historical and religious traditions of the communities in which they are based. In March, four groups in Africa declared allegiance to ISIS, including Boko Haram in northern Nigeria and neighboring states. Those behind the attack on Tunisia's Bardo Museum in mid-March also professed their loyalty to ISIS.

FRESH STRATEGIES The past history of U.S. engagement in Iraq and Afghanistan shows the limitations of boots on the ground, particularly

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those associated with the United States and the NATO coalition. Territory cannot be wrested long-term from ISIS unless local forces succeed in effectively mounting an attack. The difficulties in regaining Tikrit from ISIS reveal its significant military capacity, despite the availability of U.S. advisers to help support the Iraqi forces.

ISIS' brutality against the citizens of neighboring states has prompted action by several governments in the region that have not previously been active in combating it. The burning alive of a Jordanian pilot and the beheadings of Egyptian Christians on Libya's coast have galvanized several countries in the Middle East. Bombings of ISIS by the Jordanian government and by Egypt inside Libya show that they understand the threat posed by ISIS. Their air strikes are supplementing U.S. firepower, but military force alone is not going to displace ISIS because it provides some services to citizens in areas it occupies.

The heavy financial demands on ISIS to run the territory it occupies, combined with the military campaign against it, may help dislodge it eventually, but these will not solve the long-term problem of violence and terrorism in the unstable region that now extends from West Africa through North Africa, the Middle East and extending to Pakistan and perhaps Central Asia. There are so many corrupt autocratic governments not serving the needs of their citizens that this vast territorial expanse will remain a source of extremism, terrorism and instability for many decades to come. Moreover, there are many potential fighters, particularly marginalized and unemployed youth, who can be recruited across this large and diverse region to join violent groups.

The United States faces a challenge not from states but from potent non-state actors, such as terrorists, insurgents and transnational criminals. This challenge cannot be met by the U.S. military alone, or even acting in concert with others. The new terrorism and extreme violence is a crime problem, a development problem, a corruption problem, a problem of youths without futures and one of extremist religious views. And it's funded and facilitated by a large and growing illicit global economy.

One approach being tried with ISIS – attacking it as a business – may be a model for the future. This approach requires cutting off its funds and limiting its access to personnel and weapons needed to maintain its organization. Fortunately, this approach, already active in the United States, is acquiring traction globally.

In a unanimous vote last December, the U.N. Security Council passed an important resolution on terrorist funding. A subsequent resolution on ISIS funding was passed in February, affirming that diverse criminal activity was the lifeblood of terrorist finance. As a result, many countries are beginning to develop legislation and mechanisms to address the financing of terrorism.

This, however, is not sufficient. If the global community begins to address corruption, this would go a long way toward stemming the flow of individuals into violent non-state groups. Corruption drains countries of resources and makes citizens so angry that they are driven into the hands of terrorist organizations. We must go further in making sure corrupt officials do not shelter their money in safe havens, thereby denying their citizens jobs and a future.

If the traditional donors to terrorism are cut off and the criminal financing can be reduced, this may help limit it in the future. Such a counterterrorism strategy is not dependent on the military or diplomacy alone, and requires interagency cooperation of other branches of government, especially law enforcement, treasury and development agencies.

Yet the enormous challenges we face in coming decades cannot be solved solely by government. It requires a whole-society approach, including a response by government, business, researchers and the community. Businesses are needed to help identify the illicit trade that supports terrorism and ensure that it does not facilitate the financial activity that funds it. Researchers are needed to identify nontraditional threats. Citizens need to act to prevent youth recruitment into crime and terrorism, and to develop financial alternatives for members of the community.

These are strategies that the United States can work on with a global coalition that has made a commitment to address these issues. They are less costly than large-scale military operations that have cost vast sums in lives and treasure and yielded little long-term stability. There may be a greater chance of success in combating terrorists if the world responds to them as creative and adaptable criminal enterprises. Businesses can fail if they meet successful competitors. 🌿

Louise I. Shelley is a professor at George Mason University's School of Policy, Government and International Affairs. She is the founder and director of the Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center (TraCCC).



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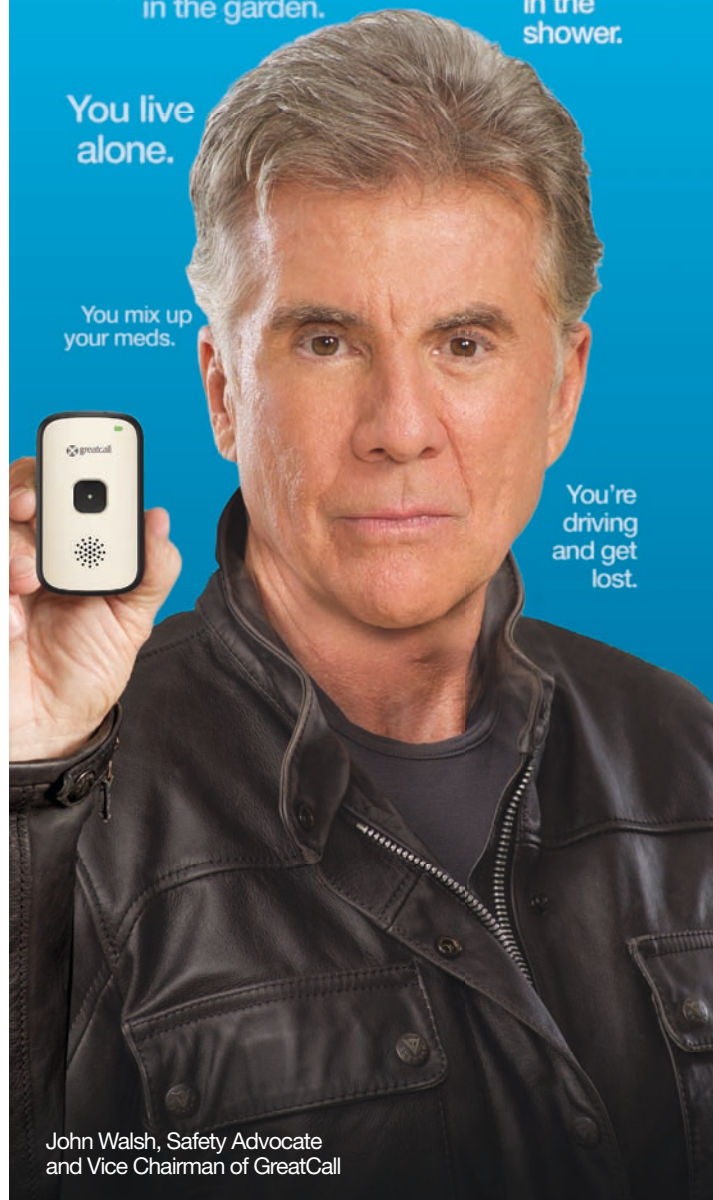
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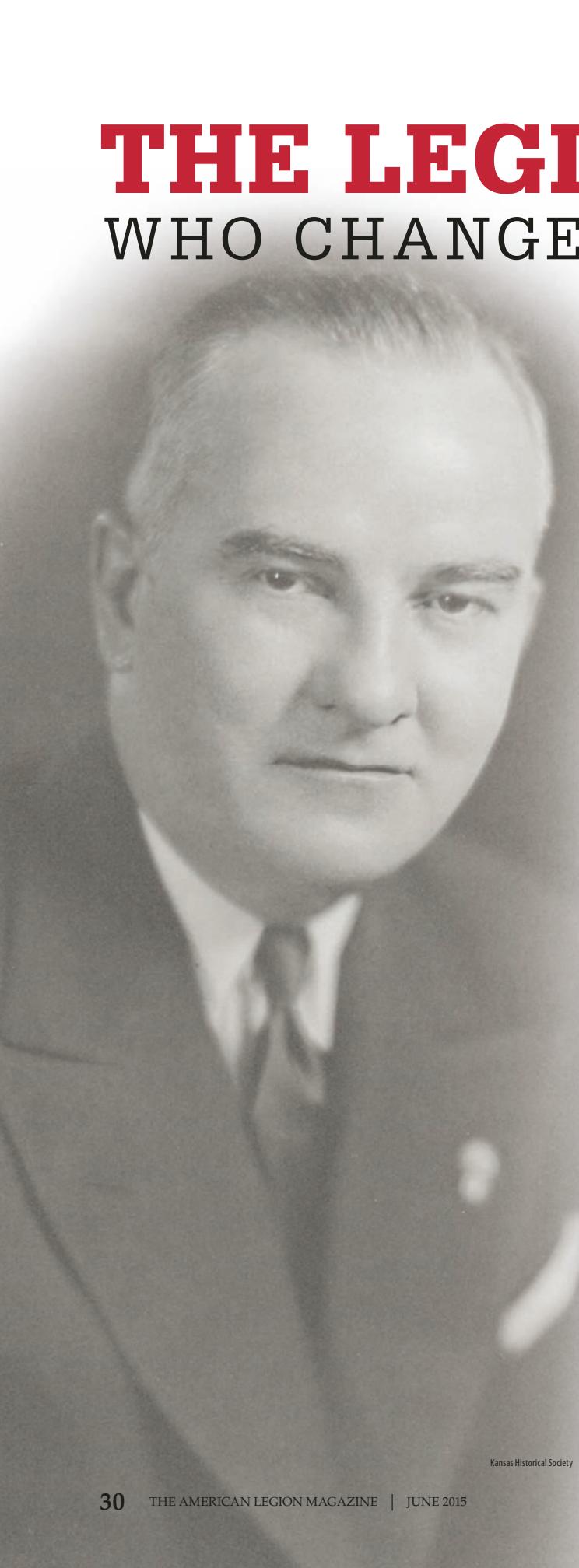


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THE LEGIONNAIRE

WHO CHANGED THE WORLD



Harry Colmery was tailor-made to assemble the original GI Bill.

BY JEFF STOFFER

A 1937 magazine profile of American Legion National Commander Harry W. Colmery contained a prophetic observation: “In the preparation of law cases, his associates say, he is at his best in arranging complicated masses of detail and dovetailing them to fit into a sequence that has, on occasion, flabbergasted opposing counsel by the thoroughness by which it was assembled.”

Six years after the article appeared in *The American Legion Monthly*, that particular Colmery characteristic was employed in a way that would improve the lives of millions for generations to come, and change the course of U.S. history.

Colmery was called upon to assemble a collection of legislative priorities into one moral imperative – a GI Bill of Rights – that would strike at the heart of a nation still awaiting the outcome of World War II, at a time when communities across the map were filling fast with men and women who had come home from military service wounded, sick, destitute and psychologically reeling from the effects of their sacrifices.

Congress and the White House were fully aware that the U.S. government was unprepared to handle the delayed costs of war. By the end of 1943, no fewer than 640 separate bills had been introduced to address the needs and problems faced by veterans who had already come home, and of GIs soon to be discharged, at a rate of about 75,000 per month. After all they had done and were doing to free the world from Axis tyranny, little in the way of tangible opportunity awaited them upon their return to civilian lives.

“Even a convict who is discharged from prison is given some money and a suit of clothes,” American Legion National Commander Warren

Kansas Historical Society

Atherton said in 1943. “The veteran, when he is discharged from a hospital or separation center, is given neither.”

The lack of readjustment services, effective health care or career opportunities for returning veterans soared to the top of the agenda of the nation’s largest veterans service organization that year.

After he was selected by Atherton to serve on a special American Legion committee to help solve the problem, Colmery was asked to put “all the complicated masses of detail” together into one succinct bill and help convince a nation still deep at war on opposite ends of the planet that it needed to invest in its veterans. It would be a tough, controversial and complicated proposition.

Harry Colmery was perfectly suited to take it on.

He had grown up in North Braddock, Pa., the son of a grocery store owner. Smart and athletic, he finished a four-year high school program in two years, excelling in math and English. He was valedictorian of his graduating class and a star athlete who went on to Oberlin College in Ohio, where he started as a shortstop on the varsity baseball team. There, Colmery earned the nickname “Hans” for his play’s resemblance to one of the greatest shortstops ever, Honus “Hans” Wagner of the Pittsburgh Pirates.

While home from college in the summers, Colmery worked at a variety of jobs before he was accepted to law school at the University of Pittsburgh.

After finishing his law degree, Colmery joined a friend in northern Utah, where he was first admitted to the bar and began what became a long and illustrious legal career; he would ultimately argue cases before the Supreme Court and was later selected to represent Robert F. Stroud, the renowned “Birdman of Alcatraz,” in a 1959 motion to vacate a court judgment.

Colmery’s legal career, however, was interrupted soon after it began.

In late 1917, the United States was at war, and Colmery enlisted in the Army Air Service. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant and served as an instructor of infantry drill regulations at Kelly Field in Texas. Two months later, he was promoted to first lieutenant and trained to become a pursuit pilot. A company and squadron commander, he logged more than 500 hours in the air but was never deployed to a combat theater. His experience training pilots in less-than-safe warplanes instilled in Colmery a lifelong passion to fight for adequate peacetime defense readiness, an intractable plank in The American Legion’s

Harry W. Colmery, 1890-1979

Bachelor of Arts, Oberlin College, 1913

Bachelor of Law, University of Pittsburgh, 1916

U.S. Army, 1917-1919

Officers Reserve Corps, U.S. Air Service, 1919-1929

American Legion Topeka Post 1 commander, 1928

American Legion Department of Kansas commander, 1929

American Legion National Commander, 1936-1937

French Legion of Honor, 1936

Order of Crown of Italy, 1936

Distinguished Service Medal, National Guard of Honor

Chairman, Civilian Aid Committee, U.S. Air Service, 1942

Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army, 1955-1957

Kansas Supreme Court Nominating Committee, 1959-1965

Philippines Legion of Honor, 1961

American Bar Foundation Fellow

American Legion Distinguished Service Medal, 1975

Kansas Bar Association

Distinguished Service Award, 1976

Topeka Bar Association President’s Good Citizen Award, 1976

The Colmery-O’Neil VA Hospital in Topeka is co-named in his honor.

In addition to offices he held and awards he received, Colmery was a Topeka Chamber of Commerce president and director, Kansas Chamber of Commerce director, Boy Scouts of America board member, Salvation Army board member, YMCA board member, and president of the American Legion Endowment Fund Corp. He was also active in the Presbyterian Church, Kiwanis Club, Masons, Military Order of the World Wars, Scabbard & Blade, Army-Navy Club of Manila, Scottish Rite, Knights Templar, Kansas Livestock Association, High Twelve Club, National Geographic Society, National Travel Club, and numerous business and law associations.



Kansas Historical Society

platform of values. After the war and his discharge from active duty, Colmery served another decade as a reserve officer, finishing as a captain.

In late 1919, he moved to Topeka, Kan., where his unique mix of intelligence, patriotism, affability, legal skills and commitment to service soon made him a prominent member of the community, in particular The American Legion.

He readily assumed American Legion leadership roles not only at his local post and state department, but at the national level as well. He managed the campaign of Ralph T. O'Neill, also of Topeka, to serve as national commander of The American Legion in 1930 and 1931. As chairman of the Legion's National Legislative Committee, Colmery pushed Congress to provide loans to

World War I veterans against their long-awaited adjusted compensation – or bonuses – as the country sank deeper into the Great Depression. He also marshaled the Rogers Act of 1931, which funded hospital construction and medical services for veterans whose health-care needs were not service-connected, a proposition of more than \$20 million in federal investment, not even two

'His first question was, was I hungry?'

On May 4, 1983, American Legion Past National Commander Perry Brown of Texas shared with the National Executive Committee what Harry Colmery had meant to him. Brown was 90 at the time.

I was a member of the First American Army in the AEF. Late in the afternoon of Sept. 12, 1918, as our unit approached its objective, I saw an enemy artillery battery about 500 yards to our immediate front, a part of the enemy rear guard.

They could see me, and I noticed a soldier moving his artillery piece into position. But I had had artillery training and knew one of the no-nos of artillery: "Never waste an artillery shell on a single soldier." He was still moving that weapon into position. He must have forgotten his training. Then I remembered my training. When in a crisis, find a big hole, jump in and keep your head down. I picked my hole and was ready to jump when the enemy artilleryman pulled the lanyard. The shell exploded. The world blew up in my face.

I came home in May 1919. After getting my discharge, I started looking for an Army hospital. One of my wounds was still giving me trouble. I was told I should see and talk to my congressman, so with little money I thumbed a ride to Washington, D.C., only to find my congressman away. I was told that all military hospitals were under the direction of the War Risk Insurance Department. What a place to be. The VA was started in 1930, 10 years after that. There was a Veterans Bureau organized in 1920. They told me that they were awaiting money from Congress to build hospitals. This is the situation I faced as a veteran from World War I.

I found a band of veterans wandering. I joined them. There were about 100 looking for answers. Speakers took over the podium. These speakers, some in uniform, were each saying to the crowd, "Have patience." They said that Congress was holding hearings "and would act in the near future."

At the conclusion of one group of speeches, a young man took the podium. He had a pleasing voice. He must have had friends in the audience, as they applauded him when he took the podium. He was very matter of fact, telling us that it took time to get the government in motion – that it would take several years to

purchase property, to prepare plans and specifications, to construct the hospitals, to furnish and to staff them.

He spoke as if he knew what was going on. I was impressed and decided to meet him if possible. As the crowd began to disperse, he drew away, and I approached him. I introduced myself. He said his name was Colmery, and for me to call him Harry. His first question was, was I hungry? After living for the past week on corn flakes and coffee, I must have looked hungry. He said to follow him across the street to a long building. It was filled with tables full of food, meats of all kinds, breads, condiments and cakes furnished by the government.

After I had had my fill, he said, "There is a bed here if you need one." What I had fallen into was food and a bed in Washington, D.C., with 2 million veterans in town and around town. After some more conversation, Harry said, "Stick around." I was so impressed that I spent the evening with him. This was 1920.

Harry commented that it would take the next 20 years to fill the needs of World War I vets. He said that it would be a gradual process. Here were 4 million veterans without any leadership. Leaders would have to come from their own ranks. He had received his law degree, had been admitted to the bar, and had trained himself in all matters relative to the legislative process. I was ready to vote for him.

Harry had a vision and capacity.

I am reminded of the words of a great president. In the midst of the battle between the states, Abe Lincoln said, "With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan."

Perhaps, with heavenly dispensation, I wonder if the old gentleman didn't come back for a few moments and guide Harry's hand as he penned the GI Bill.

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Memorial park, national recognition to keep legacy alive

The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 is largely considered the most impactful legislation passed in 20th-century America. Intended to simply give veterans a chance to restart their lives after wartime service, the act – better known as the GI Bill – had results that were immense, global and enduring.

Harry Colmery's assembly of 10 provisions to help underserved veterans revolutionized higher education, made home ownership feasible for the majority of families, streamlined VA health-care services and led to an all-volunteer military, to name just a few benefits.

In honor of Colmery and his legacy, The American Legion Department of Kansas is leading a campaign to raise funds to build a memorial park and erect a statue one block from the State Capitol building in Topeka. The American Legion 100th Anniversary Observance Committee also continues to pursue national congressional or presidential recognition of Colmery, the Legionnaire who changed the world.

Learn more about the Harry Colmery Memorial Park Fund by visiting www.ksamlegion.org or by contacting the Department of Kansas.

years after the stock market had crashed. Like the Servicemen's Readjustment Act he would later assemble and promote to enactment, the loans and hospital construction measures faced long odds at a time of near bankruptcy for the United States. But, due to Colmery's determination, they passed.

In Topeka, Colmery was credited for reinvigorating a financially troubled chamber of commerce when he served as its president in the late 1920s. He had similar success as commander for the Department of Kansas. Along the way, he was involved in numerous civic, church, fraternal and community leadership activities.

Colmery's family – wife Mina and children Sarah, Harry and Mary – were supportive of his active life of service and accepted his travel obligations and time away from home as sacrifices necessary for the good of the nation.

In 1936, Colmery was elected national commander of The American Legion, which he saw as the conscience of a nation whose past, present and future all depend on the values of those who had served in uniform.

"The burden of war falls on the citizen soldier, who has gone forth, overnight, to become the armored hope of humanity," Colmery said as he was working night and day in 1943 and 1944 to draft what would become known as the greatest social legislation passed in the United States.

And when critics of the GI Bill later suggested that a year of unemployment benefits would turn veterans into slackers, he simply said, "The American Legion has not lost faith in the veterans."

David Camelon, a Hearst Newspapers correspondent who covered the GI Bill from inception to signing, later wrote of Colmery's conviction in assembling, writing and promoting the bill: "The American Legion spoke, in a voice of cold, calculated fury that shook America."

The voice did not come from one. It came from many, a voice unified and amplified by Harry Colmery.

Of all the classes he aced, baseball games he played, cases he won, years he spent in uniform and successes he had in business, nothing would matter more to Colmery's legacy than the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, The American Legion's crown jewel of 20th-century achievements.

"He was a verifiable legend in our time," American Legion Past National Commander James F. O'Neil said in 1979. "His name will live forever in the history of The American Legion, the nation and the world." 🌿

Jeff Stoffer is editor of The American Legion Magazine.

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Workers join red and white stripes at the Annin factory in South Boston, Va.

Photo courtesy Annin & Co.

Broad Stripes, Bright Stars

For 170 years, Annin & Co. flags have been sewn into key moments in our nation's history.

BY KEN OLSEN

They saw action during the Mexican-American War and have graced every presidential inauguration since Zachary Taylor's. They accompanied Abraham Lincoln's funeral procession from Washington to Illinois, and made the first American expeditions to the North and South poles. They stood with the U.S. Olympic team when it won hockey gold at Lake Placid and rallied the nation in the aftermath of 9/11.

They are the U.S. flags of Annin & Co., the oldest and largest manufacturer of Old Glory, and a six-generation family tradition whose fortunes have tracked the nation's triumphs and tragedies for nearly 170 years.

"An Annin flag was flown at a lot of important points in American history," says Carter Beard,

company president and one of two executives who trace their family roots to Annin's founders.

"There's a sense of pride in that."

"You are so attached to history that you feel like you are part of America," adds Sandy Van Lieu, executive vice president and Beard's second cousin.

IMMIGRANT HISTORY Annin began making flags when the United States was a just four decades old. Alexander Annin set up a chandlery in New York City in the 1820s, where he sold his handmade flags along with rope, varnish and other ship supplies. His 13- and 15-year-old sons Benjamin and Edward joined the business in 1847, and decided to specialize in U.S. flags, Beard says.

By the 1860s, the U.S. Signal Corps purchased all of its flags from Annin, and before the Civil War ended, every Union brigade and battleship flew the company's stars and stripes. Annin sold 1.5 million flags during the war.

The addition of motorized sewing machines to Annin's workshop toward the end of the 1860s revolutionized flag making. A seamstress could

sew a flag in an hour instead of a day. That was followed by the introduction of even better sewing machines in 1906 that could simultaneously stitch stars on both sides of a U.S. flag.

Today, Annin's high-tech plant in Cobbs Creek, Va., embroiders white stars on blue fields around the clock, seven days a week, to keep up with demand from the company's flag factories in South Boston, Va., and Coshocton, Ohio. Yet the essential elements of crafting U.S. flags haven't changed: people at sewing machines joining red stripes with white stripes and a blue field of white stars.

"I'm sure the big issues my great-grandfather wrestled with in the 1920s and '30s are the same issues Sandy and I wrestle with today," Beard says. They include hiring good people, finding top-quality materials, making a great product and selling it at a fair but profitable price.

LEGION ALLIANCE An Annin flag artist named Digby Chandler attended The American Legion's first national convention in Minneapolis in 1919, establishing enduring ties between the flag maker and the veterans service organization. A plaque in the entryway at the Legion's national headquarters in Indianapolis memorializes Chandler's close ties to the organization, and the Legion still relies on Annin for U.S. flags and Legion flags alike.

"It just makes sense to align Annin Flags with The American Legion," Van Lieu says. "It's good to work with an organization that believes in the same things we believe in."

Annin also has a colorful place in American letters. James Thurber published a short story in 1950 about a man who shops for his wife's Christmas present in Annin's New York City showroom, long since closed.

There have been missteps as well. Annin was one of 20 flag companies charged with wartime price gouging in 1917. "It was a mistake Annin would not repeat," according to a company history published in 2013. During the Depression, two

embezzling employees almost ruined Annin. "The company declared bankruptcy on the brink of closure in 1936," Beard says.

Flag demand also rises and falls with the national mood. "During Vietnam, you couldn't give a flag away," Van Lieu says. Yet the 1976 bicentennial sparked a surge in demand, as did 9/11. Annin made and sold more U.S. flags from 2001 to 2003 than at any other point in the company's 168-year history.

Both events coincided with significant changes and challenges at Annin. In 1975, it purchased Colonial Flag Co. in Coshocton, Ohio. "They were struggling," Beard says. "We needed the capacity for the bicentennial."

But it took a few years to work out all the kinks with Annin's purchase of its largest competitor, Dettra Flag Co., in 1998. Then in 2001, Annin renovated a former glove manufacturing plant in Coshocton to allow it to expand production. The timing seemed awful.

"We were set to move the fall of 2001, when Sept. 11 happened," Beard says. The company had to decide whether to divert resources to relocating the Ohio factory at a time when it couldn't keep up with demand. After some deliberation, Annin moved Thanksgiving weekend 2001, a fortuitous decision that enabled it to triple production.

Throughout its history, Annin has prided itself on making U.S. flags with

American materials. After 9/11, however, U.S. flag factories were overwhelmed and some stores imported foreign-made flags to satisfy demand. That prompted Annin and other manufacturers, including Valley Forge Flag Co. and Chicago Flag, to form the Flag Manufacturers Association of America. "We're all going to be Coke and Pepsi," Van Lieu says. "But we have things in common: the label that says 'Made in America.'" The organization also offers a college scholarship each year to the high school senior who submits the most compelling video about what the flag means to him or her.



Annin's flagship store on Fulton Street in Manhattan was known as "Old Glory Corner."

Photo courtesy Annin & Co.



Workers sew U.S. flags at the Annin factory in Coshocton, Ohio. Photo courtesy Annin & Co.

Foreign-made U.S. flags, meanwhile, bombed with American shoppers after 9/11. “Those flags just sat on the shelves after people saw they were made in China,” says Dale Coots, Annin’s marketing manager.

Coots became the company’s first female salesperson in 1984 and is typical of a loyal workforce of people who stay for their entire career. “You are always treated with respect,” Coots explains. “You aren’t just making can openers. You are involved with a product that has meaning to people.”

That’s equally true at Annin headquarters in Roseland, N.J., where Coots works, as it is on the manufacturing line in Coshocton, where Jackie Darr has made flags for more than 35 years. Darr started at the Coshocton plant in 1980 “for a little Christmas money,” she says, while overseeing an order of 6,000 U.S. flags for one of Annin’s large retail customers. “I guess I’m still working for a little Christmas money.”

Changes in the past 35 years have been dramatic. The Coshocton plant has gone from 25 employees to 147. A good day’s production has gone from 500 flags to 25,000, making Coshocton the single largest U.S.-flag factory in the United States. This plant also makes golf flags, state flags and the POW flag. But U.S. flags constitute more than 95 percent of what’s made here.

“It feels like you are doing something for your country,” Darr says. “My dad was a Korean War veteran, and my uncle was a Vietnam veteran. I’m

doing my part making the flag.”

Darr carries that pride and patriotism wherever she goes. She’s even been known to stop and knock on doors when she sees a worn-out flag on display at someone’s house.

“I hate to look at a flag that is torn and tattered,” she says.

SIXTH GENERATION Beyond its storied legacy – making the flag that flew at Iwo Jima, being part of the Apollo mission to the moon and countless other iconic moments – one of the most remarkable things about Annin is that it has remained a family business for six generations.

“That’s very unusual,” says James Schrage, clinical professor of entrepreneurship and strategy at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. Only a small percentage of family enterprises survive three generations. There are two key challenges: are the family members who want to run the business capable of taking the helm? And are the other family members willing to leave their inheritance invested in the company, or do they want to be cashed out?

There’s also the “founder’s DNA” problem, Schrage says. “The founder knows so much about the business, has made so many mistakes, has had so much good luck, has had so much bad luck that he has almost unlimited information.” Founders are almost universally reluctant to share all they know. Even if they are willing to divulge their hard-earned

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knowledge, that breadth of information is impossible to pass on. Beyond that, markets change, manufacturing changes, distribution changes, and a successful CEO has to adapt to conditions the founder may never have anticipated.

Part of the Annin advantage is the relative consistency of the U.S. flag.

"This product serves a fabulous purpose today that is essentially the same purpose it served in 1776," Schrager says. "Great changes make it harder to find the next CEO."

Part of Annin's secret may also be Beard's and Van Lieu's instincts. Neither started their professional careers at Annin, which is standard advice every savvy family business consultant gives. "Don't start at Dad's business," Schrager says. "That's because wisdom comes from failure. It's prettier if you do your belly flops when the family isn't watching."

Van Lieu worked as a file clerk at Annin while she was in high school. After college, she struck a deal with her father, Jack Dennis – then Annin's vice president of sales. She would get 10 years of outside experience and then come back to the family enterprise. She found work as a personnel recruiter for U.S. Testing's nuclear power plants to be miserable, however, and came to Annin more quickly than anticipated. Van Lieu then earned her master's degree in manufacturing management from the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York, learning how to take apart a sewing machine, make clothes and lay out a factory. These skills helped Annin revamp its approach to flag making and improve production.

Beard, meanwhile, never wanted to work at Annin. He was working at Putnam Mutual Funds in



An Annin worker sews American Legion flags in the 1950s. Annin still supplies embroidered post flags and U.S. flags to the organization. Photo courtesy Annin & Co.

Boston when his father, Lee Beard – then Annin's vice president for operations – asked him to spend a weekend at the company's Bloomfield, N.J., plant to help the Secret Service. Then-Vice President George H.W. Bush had planned a campaign stop at the factory. By the following Monday, Lee offered Beard a job, and it stuck.

"I started as a sewing machine mechanic," Beard says. "Once I got on the plant floor, it just appealed to me. I'm still the happiest when I'm on the production floor."

How has Annin remained in the family for six generations? "Our people care a lot about quality and care a lot about each other," Van Lieu says. Annin also has moved more of the flag making process in-house. "We're investing more in technology than anybody else in the industry, dyeing our own fabric, doing our own embroidery. We've gone vertical when everybody else is outsourcing."

Beard credits the family philosophy for keeping Annin thriving. "Maybe it's because those who came before didn't look at it as theirs to sell," he says, "but as theirs to take care of."

Will there be a seventh-generation Annin heir at the helm? Van Lieu's stepchildren and nephews haven't yet expressed an interest. It's too soon to say what Beard's 11-year-old son and 8-year-old daughter will decide. He's hopeful, but careful.

"I don't want to put pressure on my two children," he says. "I never had pressure to work here." He pauses, assesses his modest office and adds, "My son will say, 'Daddy, after I get done being quarterback for the Giants, can I be president of Annin?' And I say, 'Maybe.'" 🌿

Ken Olsen is a frequent contributor to The American Legion Magazine.

LEARN MORE ABOUT FLAG HISTORY

"Indivisible: The Story of Our Flag" is an American Legion Centennial multimedia tribute to our nation's colors, exploring the flag's meaning, the price paid for all it symbolizes, and the special place it occupies in our culture and conscience.

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Charm City

For Legionnaires attending the 97th National Convention, Baltimore has plenty to see and do.

STORY BY HENRY HOWARD, PHOTOS BY LUCAS CARTER

Baltimore prides itself on being authentic yet quirky. A rich history meshes with a vibrant cultural scene in this city on the Chesapeake Bay. American Legion members and families headed to Baltimore for the 97th National Convention Aug. 28-Sept. 3 will find plenty of options for entertainment and food.

Here are some ideas on how convention-goers and guests may spend their downtime. All attractions are within a mile of the convention center unless otherwise noted. Admission prices vary. Call or go to an attraction's website for more details, such as hours of operation and admission discounts.



FIVE PLACES FOR THE HISTORY BUFF



Fort McHenry Visitors can tour the fort and view where Francis Scott Key penned his poem "Defence of Fort McHenry," which later became "The Star-Spangled Banner." At about 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. daily, visitors can observe and participate in the changing of the flag over the fort. Visitors who are mobility-impaired may have trouble with some of the fort's brick and gravel paths. Located at 2400 E. Fort Ave., a 15- to 20-minute drive from the convention center. 🌐 nps.gov/fomc

Star-Spangled Banner Flag House A small museum and nearby house offer visitors a history lesson. The 1793 house is where Mary Pickersgill and others designed and created the flag that inspired Key to write the poem that later became the national anthem. The museum is wheelchair-accessible but the house is not. Closed Sunday and Monday. The museum, 844 East Pratt St., is a short drive from the convention center. Free on-street parking is close by.

🌐 www.flaghouse.org

Sports Legends Museum at Camden Yards and Babe Ruth Birthplace and Museum Two museums, a quarter-mile apart, showcase the rich history of Baltimore sports, one focusing on baseball legend (and Baltimore native) Ruth. The other spotlights athletes such as Orioles infielder Cal Ripken Jr., Colts quarterback Johnny Unitas and Olympic champion swimmer Michael Phelps. Guests may purchase tickets for one museum or a combination pass for both.

🌐 baberruthmuseum.org



Historic military vessels Located within walking distance of each other, USS *Constellation*, the submarine USS *Torsk*, Coast Guard Cutter *Taney* and the lightship *Chesapeake* give visitors a feel for what it was like to be at sea from the Civil War days to the mid-1980s. The vessels are in the Inner Harbor, at 301 E. Pratt St. Visitors who are mobility-impaired may not be able to view all parts of the vessels.


🌐 historicships.org


B&O Railroad Museum Located at 901 W. Pratt St., the museum's 40-acre campus is where engineers, surveyors and businessmen set about building the Baltimore & Ohio (B&O) Railroad in 1829. Today, visitors can experience the oldest and most complete collection of railroad artifacts.

 borail.org

FIVE OPTIONS FOR THE FOODIE




Crab, fish and more seafood Baltimore is famous for its crab and other seafood, which will be in season during the late-summer convention. One notable option is the Rusty Scupper, about a mile from the convention center, at 402 Key Highway. **(410) 727-3678**  www.rusty-scupper.com

Another option is Faidley's Seafood, which has been family-owned since 1886. Faidley's specializes in crab cakes. It's at Lexington Market, 203 N. Paca St.  faidleyscrabcakes.com

Culture and cuisine Charm City Food Tours specializes in intriguing architecture, fascinating culture and delicious samples from family-owned restaurants. The three-hour tours are narrated by experienced guides. Tour prices, times and locations vary. **(202) 683-8847**

 www.baltimorefoodtours.com

Little Italy This quaint section is nestled between Baltimore's Inner Harbor and Fell's Point. Most of the 30 restaurants and cafes are family-owned. Take a stroll after dinner or a cannoli snack, and you may notice a bocce tournament underway. It's a short drive with plenty of on-street and garage parking available.

B&O American Brasserie Contemporary American fare is served in an historic building that once served as the headquarters of the B&O Railroad. Located at 2 N. Charles St.  bandorestaurant.com

Spanish and Mediterranean cuisine For those looking for authentic Spanish food, Tio Pepe offers a broad menu. The restaurant is about a mile away, at 10 E. Franklin St.

 tiopepebaltimore.com

FIVE OPTIONS FOR THE EXPLORER

Play ball! Sit back, relax and enjoy a baseball game at one of the nation's most unique and attractive stadiums, Oriole Park at Camden Yards, 333 W. Camden St. The Orioles host the Tampa Bay Rays Aug. 31-Sept. 2.

 baltimore.orioles.mlb.com



The first day of the homestand against the Rays, Aug. 31, is American Legion Family Night. Game time is at 7:05 p.m. Matthew Walsh, captain of the 2014 American Legion All-Academic Team, will throw the ceremonial first pitch.

 www.orioles.com/tix/americanlegion

Sharks and stingrays and puffins – oh, my! The National Aquarium is packed with 17,000 animals, an Atlantic coral reef and 4D immersion films. Allow at least a couple of hours to tour the museum. Located at 501 E. Pratt St.  aqua.org

Feeling lucky? The Horseshoe Casino, 1525 Russell St., will celebrate its one-year anniversary in late August. The two-story casino offers 122,000 square feet of gaming space, including slots, table games and a World Series of Poker room. Several restaurants and bars are also in the complex. Visitors will need to drive or take public transportation.

 caesars.com/horseshoe-baltimore

Fell's Point This eclectic neighborhood is older than Baltimore itself. Lined with cobblestone streets, Fell's Point offers restaurants, pubs and shopping. There are also tours that focus on the neighborhood's haunted past and connections to slavery and the opium trade. Visitors will need to drive, and parking spaces fill up quickly.



Believe it or not If you are looking for the bizarre, try the Ripley's Believe it or Not! Odditorium, with 10 galleries full of the weird, strange and bizarre. The Ripley's Mirror Maze is 2,000 square feet of endless passages, dead ends and fun. The 4D Moving Theater has digital effects, motion seats and 4D effects. Located at 301 Light St.

 www.ripleys.com/baltimore

Henry Howard is deputy director of The American Legion's Media & Communications Division.



A COMFORT & A CONSTANT

To see the U.S. flag in Vietnam was to remember who we were, why we were there and the homes we longed to see again.

BY KEITH NIGHTINGALE

Many years have passed since the last uniformed American came home from the Vietnam War. Those of us who were there often have mixed feelings about our place and time in history. The distance between then and now is sufficient for historians to dissect the war and its many parts from a safe vantage point, from presidential decisions to children left behind, the battles we fought to the quality of our C-rations.

Schools barely mention the Vietnam War outside the context of visceral political dissent and demonstrations. As our number begins to diminish, we Vietnam veterans gather in the warmth of our own memories, perhaps surrounded by friends and comrades at an American Legion post, joined by one common thread: the flag under which we fought.

That simply designed rectangular cloth with its universally understood patterns and meanings flew

LEFT: A crewman of a Navy patrol craft fires an M2 .50 caliber machine gun at enemy positions, while heading for a landing point to put Vietnamese troops ashore. Photo by U.S. Navy/Getty Images

from the moment our troops set foot in Vietnam until the last of our era departed. The flag is a consistent and enduring memory in a war that had little consistency over the decade and a half we endured in Southeast Asia.

Among the millions of American men and women who served in Vietnam, there resides somewhere inside us the knowledge of what it's like to be far from home and how our memories can bring us back: a sport, a girl, a husband, family, friends, hamburgers, the farm, the city. Images of home rushed privately into our minds whenever we gazed upon the flag in Vietnam.

Our flag meant, and means, something. To us, it symbolized a place we left behind, the spirit of home, temporarily forfeited for a greater purpose and service someplace else. The comfort of a familiar neighborhood, family, friends or a special someone could emerge with emotional clarity after one quick, furtive glance at the flag. It represented what we were, where we were and what we were doing in the world, a comfort we would otherwise not have had. We would never lose our flag. It was us, serving there, and it was them, the people and things we left behind.

Even today, when veterans return to Vietnam, our flag is known to the Vietnamese, most of whom were not yet born when the last of us left their country. A veteran may have a small cloth flag in a book, or a piece of a uniform, or a magazine that shows our flag, and a Vietnamese local will look over his shoulder, see it and say – “*Hoa Ky* (U.S.), *yoi lam* (good)” – with a thumbs-up and a big smile. Even after 50 years, our presence and larger purposes there remain respected by many and, in some cases, revered. It is odd to U.S. veterans of this particular war that the former enemy can have more regard for our service than did our fellow citizens when we came home.

Wherever our uniforms went in Vietnam, so did the flag. In some cases, it was large and conspicuous, such as at our embassy or major base camps. In other cases, its presence was much smaller but perhaps more symbolic and meaningful. LZ X-Ray had a small flag by its anthill CP. Small U.S. flags were some of the first visual symbols planted at the top of Hamburger Hill – displayed by soldiers who didn't want to be there but were anyway and cared deeply about the outcome.

The constantly bombarded Marine bases along the DMZ all flew defiant flags that suffered the same indignities as those that rose over Fort McHenry and Fort Sumpter. Had Lincoln stood in the center of Khe

Sanh, he would have seen our flag, smiled and understood. This is why we are here. This is what we are about.

During the Tet Offensive of 1968, small U.S. flags emerged on rooftops and windowsills, advancing the message that the United States was still there, not surrendering. You will have to take us to change this flag. It is ours, and we are keeping it.

In thousands of places and on thousands of things, the flag waved during our war. Whip antennas of vehicles. Stickers on the sides of 500-pound bombs. Colored fragments coursing in the wind behind the Brown Water Navy. At every temporary command post, a maneuver unit might stop for a moment. The U.S. flag, immediately identifiable, represented private thoughts and feelings each of us held. From the early 1950s until the middle 1970s, through the ebbs and flows of enthusiasm and attitude about Southeast Asia and America's use of military force there, the flag remained the one constant. It would be wherever our uniforms went. It was the same for all of us. It was the flag.

Ordinary people may navigate their lives and locations on the planet in studied ignorance about the evils that surround them. But those who serve and served in uniform know of evil's existence, its penalties and costs. We intuitively understand that “the only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing.” Good men and women have carried our flag wherever something had to be done to make the world a better place.

Millions of people who are not U.S. citizens understand what our flag symbolizes, and pay secret homage to its meaning. It transcends culture, religion, education or language to the world's inhabitants, more so than their own national symbols. It is a flag of hope and aspiration some enjoy only fleetingly.

Since Vietnam, on the shoulder of every service's uniform, is the flag. It carries a message far larger than the individual who bears it. It always has. It always will. Regardless of personal feelings, those who served under the flag understood that they were for some short time part of something greater than themselves.

They may have been a grunt, a gun bunny, a sailor, pilot or ammo handler, but they were there, and they served the nation and the flag. The several million who served in Southeast Asia, and those whose names are chiseled in black granite, could accurately say, “I served that flag and what it means to us all. It flew proudly because I made it so.” 🌿

Keith Nightingale is a retired U.S. Army colonel, military history writer and frequent contributor to The American Legion Magazine.



Online series showcases Legion posts

American Legion National Commander Mike Helm has emphasized the importance of welcoming and supporting the post-9/11 generation of veterans and their families. While the Legion's timeless values resonate with all who served, from World War II to the global war on terrorism, today's tech-savvy veterans use digital media to create and share content relevant to their lives.

In an effort to reach younger veterans, The American Legion is uniting with We Are The Mighty (WATM), the first media and lifestyle brand for, by and about the military community. It showcases their talents, accomplishments and interests through relevant, entertaining and informative media.

From this relationship comes "Our Post," a series which shares unexpected stories and encounters from various Legion posts across the United States.

"We think these stories will resonate with young veterans and get them interested in wanting to know more about the Legion and wanting to be part of its future," Helm says.

Hosted by Marine Corps veteran and actor Johnny Jenkinson, "Our Post" starts at historic Post 43 in Hollywood, Calif., and traverses the United States to tell compelling stories and experiences of Legion members while breaking down outdated stereotypes. Viewers young and old, veteran and civilian, will relate to the many fascinating, funny and authentic people who make The American Legion one of the country's most respected institutions.

"We have a unique opportunity to capture their attention with great stories about the many Legion families whose rich history and service have shaped the fabric of our country," Helm says.

We Are The Mighty launched in November 2014 and combines the entertainment and media expertise of its founders with a team of veterans to build a brand to empower the community, broaden awareness and eliminate stereotypes.

View the first four episodes on the We Are The Mighty website:

 www.legion.wearethemighty.com



TOP: Host Johnny Jenkinson shoots pool while talking with fellow members of Post 43 about why they joined.

ABOVE: Past post commander Jeric Wilhelmsen and member Stephanie Sanchez show off some of the treasures in the Post 43 museum, including an SAL helmet worn by Shirley Temple.



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Ground crewmen carry Col. Dean Hess from his plane upon completion of his 100th Korean War combat mission. Hess died at his home in Huber Heights, Ohio, on March 2. U.S. Air Force photo

HONOR & REMEMBRANCE

Flying preacher remembered for orphan rescue, wartime exploits

Retired Air Force Col. Dean Hess, immortalized in a film starring Rock Hudson for his heroic efforts to rescue Korean orphans, has died at 97.

As the Associated Press reports, Hess was an ordained minister and a lieutenant colonel “when he helped arrange evacuation of Korean orphans from their country’s mainland to safety on a coastal island.”

Along with Lt. Col. Russell Blaisdell, a chaplain, Hess crafted a plan to transport hundreds of war orphans to safety in Operation Kiddy Car.

Jeff Underwood, an Air Force historian, called Hess a “shining example” of the Air Force’s humanitarian airlift capabilities and a key figure in Air Force history. “What is less well known is the instrumental role he played in training the fledgling South Korean Air Force,” Underwood said.

Hess flew 250 combat missions in Korea, following a World War II tour that saw him fly 63 missions.

Hudson portrayed Hess in the 1957 film “Battle Hymn,” which was also the title of Hess’ autobiography. “He used the movie and book proceeds to build an orphanage in South Korea,” AP reports. Hess “never cashed in on his notoriety,” his son, Lawrence Hess, told AP.

Hess was presented a medal by South Korean President Syngman Rhee in 1951. The medal is still displayed at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force near Dayton, Ohio.

DEFENSE

Chemical weapons neutralizer?

A team of scientists from Northwestern University has developed a compound capable of deactivating chemical weapons, including sarin and other nerve agents, the website Gizmodo and the journal *Science* report.

The scientists are using a new compound in enzymes called phosphotriesterases. “Usually produced by bacteria, these proteins deactivate some pesticides – and nerve gases – in milliseconds,” according to Gizmodo. They have already shown that their catalyst compound – known as NU-1000 – can deactivate a pesticide that’s similar to nerve agents but safe for lab use.

“Testing by U.S. Army facilities has shown that it neutralizes half of the nerve agent GD – more toxic than the well-known sarin – in just three minutes.”



HONOR & REMEMBRANCE

ABMC offers new app to navigate cemeteries

The American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC), which oversees overseas U.S. commemorative cemeteries and federal memorials, has released a pair of official U.S. government mobile apps designed to help navigate Normandy American Cemetery in France and Cambridge American Cemetery in England.

The apps include maps and visit information, stories about the Americans buried there, context on the war and the U.S. role in it, virtual tours and more. They can be used to explore the cemeteries firsthand, or from the comfort of home. They are available for free download through iTunes and Google Play.

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Ellen Stofan, chief scientist for NASA, who believes the agency will find “strong indications of life beyond Earth in the next decade and definitive evidence in the next 10 to 20 years.” *Source: Daily Mail*

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Artist Scott LoBaido laughs about the weather conditions after finishing the first flag mural of his 50-state tour at American Legion Post 202 in Fayetteville, N.C., on Feb. 24. LoBaido will spend the summer doing similar work on Legion or VFW buildings across the United States. Photo by Abbi O'Leary

OLD GLORY

Flag artist paints his way across the country

Amid snow, freezing rain and sleet, artist Scott LoBaido kicked off a 50-state celebration of veterans in February by painting Old Glory on the side of American Legion Post 202 in Fayetteville, N.C.

"I'm just giving veterans a little thank you," LoBaido says of his tour, during which he'll paint a U.S. flag on the side of an American Legion or VFW post in each of the 50 states. "I want to bring attention to this awesome group of people and let the population know they need to support these men and women."

The tour began with Post 202 on Feb. 21 and is set to end at American Legion Post 139 in Arlington, Va., in late August. LoBaido will use an estimated 600 gallons of paint, supplied by sponsors Home Depot and Behr.

As for the weather, which immediately put him behind schedule? "This is going to be an issue here and there," LoBaido says. "Veterans fought in it. I can paint in it."

LoBaido hails from Staten Island, N.Y., where he remembers his grandmother always flying the American flag. Although he has never been in the military, he comes from a family of veterans. His grandfather served in the Navy during World War II. Two uncles served in Vietnam.

About 25 years ago, LoBaido had a revelation that put him on the path to becoming one of the nation's most celebrated flag artists. "It hit me that these guys sacrificed their lives for me to be as free as I can as an artist," he says. "And the American flag is the greatest, most beautiful, most powerful work of art."

He painted his first flag mural on the now-defunct Victory Diner in Staten Island in the early 1980s. It was controversial at the time. "People said it's pro-war," LoBaido says. "I said, 'Whoa – I'm trying to educate people, to bring people to fall back in love with that flag and what it represents.'"

He set out on his first cross-country tour in 2006, painting U.S. flag images on the roofs of buildings in all 50 states. He selected buildings with slanted roofs so the colors could be seen from the road or from the air, a way of saying "Godspeed" to troops headed for the global war on terror and "welcome home" to those returning. Four years later, he painted the world's largest U.S. flag on the roof of the Lamons Gasket Co. warehouse near Hobby Airport in Houston. The 300-foot by 500-foot rendition of Old Glory was completed between June 14 – Flag Day – and the Fourth of July and required 900 gallons of paint.

LoBaido logged another 25,000 miles on a 2011 expedition to retouch the flags he painted five years earlier. Now Legion and VFW posts are his canvas because "they house the most important people in the world," he says. He selected the location in each state based on street visibility and availability of a flat wall suitable for painting.

"To us, it's a reward," says George C. Cade, commander of Post 202. "Not only to the post, but to the entire veterans community."

Follow LoBaido's 50-state tour online:



www.scottlobaido.com

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A group of Boy Scouts prepares in Oregon for a cross-country bicycle ride to raise money for Operation Comfort Warriors. Photo by Lucas Carter

TROOP SUPPORT

WHEELS for WARRIORS

Bryce Nurning didn't start riding a bike until about six years ago. Learning to ride was challenging because his family lives on a hilly street in the coastal community of Astoria, Ore. But one day his parents took him to a flatter area to practice, where Bryce was "too scared to start out on my own."

Nurning's dad tied a rope around both of their waists and had Bryce learn without training wheels. "When I was finally confident enough to go without the rope, he sent me off, and I ran into a sticker (blackberry) bush," he recalls.

Now the 16-year-old Nurning is leading a group of six Boy Scouts and adults on a cross-country ride to raise funds in support of The American Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) program. Bike Trip America launches in Astoria on June 18 and will end in New York City on Aug. 15. Along the way, the riders will be supported by Legion posts, churches and other organizations that have volunteered to provide meals and/or places to sleep.

Nurning planned the entire route, using online maps and other tools. The daily rides range from 30 to 111 miles, with some single-day trips accounting for 4,000 feet or more of elevation climb.

"Last summer I wanted to have a better idea of what I was doing with organizing this trip, so I rode with a group called Eagle Scout Cycling Across America," he says. "There were 10 kids my age going from San Francisco to Virginia Beach, and I decided to join them from San Francisco to Colorado just to get some experience."

Afterward, Nurning knew he wanted his ride to go all the

way to the East Coast. The next step: find a charity to support. He met with members of American Legion Post 12 in Astoria and was impressed by OCW.

"It's a good cause, and the more I realized how important it is and how many times our veterans have kind of been forgotten, it made me want to help out," he says. "Operation Comfort Warriors is different from other charities in a lot of ways because all the money that is donated actually goes to the veterans."

Nurning's group has been completing long training rides to prepare for the 59-day journey. And he knows the challenges will be mental as well as physical. For instance, temperatures hit 111 degrees during last summer's ride. On another day, they faced a 30-mph headwind while trying to finish a 100-mile leg.

"No matter how prepared you are, something will happen that is unexpected and you just have to be ready," he says. "You have to be flexible."

When this year's crew concludes the 12-state journey, they won't soon forget the experience.

Before his San Francisco-Colorado journey last year, Nurning didn't know any of the other riders. But they bonded quickly. "Once we got to Colorado, I almost cried from having to leave them all," he says. "We felt like family."

— Henry Howard

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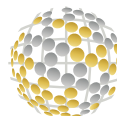
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"Failure to vote is the equivalent of rejecting the freedoms bestowed on each individual by our Constitution. These freedoms, like a family heirloom, should be treasured and held dear. But it appears we have begun to take these freedoms for granted."



Geeta P. Minocha of Ocala, Fla., delivers her prepared oration during The American Legion's Oratorical Contest finals in Indianapolis on April 12.

Photo by Lucas Carter

AMERICANISM

Florida teen wins 78th Oratorical Contest

Geeta Minocha, a senior from Ocala, Fla., triumphed over 52 contestants to take first place in The American Legion's 78th Annual High School Oratorical Scholarship Program on April 12. She received an \$18,000 college scholarship and an all-expenses-paid trip to the Legion's national convention in Baltimore in August.

Sponsored by Ocala Memorial Post 27 and a student at Vanguard High School, Minocha won for her prepared oration, "Our Greatest Honor," and her assigned oration on the 19th Amendment, which granted American women the right to vote.

In her oration, Minocha pointed out that the Constitution was not a document that could have declared George Washington a king, but was instead a document "remodeling the government of the United States." She lamented that U.S. voter turnout is now reported to be the lowest since the 1940s.

"I think it's given me a lot of confidence in myself," Minocha said of the Oratorical Contest. "I can do what I put my mind to."

Rowan Macwan, a junior from Naperville, Ill., finished second and earned a \$16,000 college scholarship, while Emma Skahill, a senior from Earlham, Iowa, finished third and earned a \$14,000 scholarship. The other department-level winners and semifinalists each earned scholarship money as well, bringing the weekend total to more than \$130,000 awarded by the Legion.

Watch the winning oration: www.legion.org/legiontv

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Baltimore hotel added to assignments

An 11th hotel has been added to the list of department assignments for hotels during the 97th National Convention in Baltimore from Aug. 28 to Sept. 3.

Lord Baltimore, 20 W. Baltimore St.
Indiana, Vermont

Find the full, updated list of hotel assignments online:

www.legion.org/convention



EDUCATION

How to 'elect' the GI Bill rate for VR&E



Q: How can I be paid the Post-9/11 GI Bill rate for my Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program (VR&E)?

A: Veterans

participating in the VR&E program who

qualify for Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits can elect to receive the GI Bill rate of pay instead of the regular Chapter 31 subsistence allowance. In most cases, the GI Bill rate is higher than the regular Chapter 31 rate of pay. To elect the GI Bill rate, the veteran must have remaining eligibility for the Post-9/11 GI Bill, and must formally choose (or "elect") the GI Bill rate. Your vocational rehabilitation counselor, or VRC, can help you with election.

Veterans participating in the VR&E program who elect the Post-9/11 rate are paid at the 100 percent rate level for their school and training time, even if their Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility is less than 100 percent. Additional benefits are also available through VR&E, such as full payment of all books, fees and supplies as well as other support services.

Valerie Heffner is a Marine Corps veteran and member of American Legion Post 27 in Arizona. askvalerie@legion.org

BY THE NUMBERS

\$1 million Low-end estimated amount in retroactive benefits The American Legion helped veterans recover at Veterans Benefits Center (VBC) events across the country through April

\$7,730 Amount in gifts presented to Memphis-area veterans at VA facilities, including a veterans homeless shelter, courtesy of Operation Comfort Warriors in April

114 Number of new Legionnaires and transfers gained by six posts in New Castle County, Del., during a March revitalization



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HONOR & REMEMBRANCE

Eastern National to maintain Vietnam Women's Memorial

The Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation will entrust Eastern National, a nonprofit organization focused on improving U.S. national parks, with the preservation and promotion of the Vietnam Women's Memorial in Washington. In collaboration with the National Park Service, Eastern National will assume responsibility of the memorial.

The Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation (VWMF) was established in 1984 to honor the women who served in country. The sculpture was dedicated in 1993.

The American Legion played an integral part in making the women's memorial possible, said VWMF founder Diane Carlson Evans, a Vietnam War Army Nurse Corps veteran and Legionnaire. "The Legion really took the lead to help honor Vietnam veteran women. We have had its support since day one."

Although Eastern National is a new relationship for VWMF, the foundation has been working with the National Park Service since 1993, Evans said.

"We wanted to ensure (the monument's) future, because we aren't going to live forever," she said. "We turned it over to a safe harbor. Eastern National is an agency that can carry on the mission and enhance National Park Service programs. We feel really confident that the support of these two agencies will allow further use of the monument into the future."

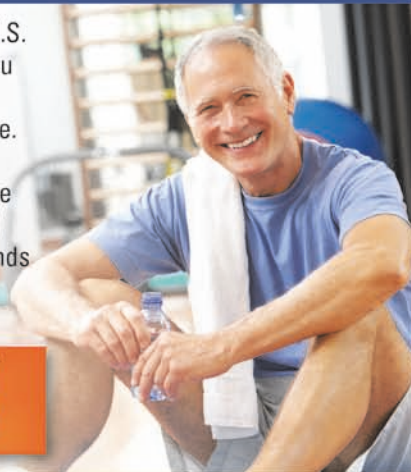
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WAR ON TERROR

Highway to the U.S. homeland

Noting that 100 people from the Caribbean and South America have joined the ranks of the Islamic State, Marine Gen. John F. Kelly, head of U.S. Southern Command, warns that existing human smuggling networks are “so efficient that if a terrorist or almost anyone wants to get into our country, they just pay the fare.” Some of those smuggling networks lead to the United States. “The amount of movement,” he observes, “and the sophistication of the network overwhelms our ability to stop everything.”

“While they’re in Syria they’ll get good at killing, and they’ll pick up some real job skills in terms of explosives and beheadings and things like that,” Kelly says. “Everyone is concerned, of course ... because if they go over radicalized, one can expect that they’ll come back at least that radicalized, but with really good job skills.”

ISIS has recruited people from Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname and Venezuela, according to *The Washington Post*.

VERBATIM

I ask for forgiveness. I share morally in the guilt, but whether I am guilty under criminal law you will have to decide.

Oskar Gröning, former Nazi SS guard and bookkeeper at Auschwitz, speaking at his trial for being an accessory to the deaths of at least 300,000 Jews at the concentration camp. He said he witnessed mass killings but denied a direct role. Source: BBC



BY THE NUMBERS

2,738

Coalition airstrikes conducted in Iraq and Syria against the Islamic State (ISIS) as of March

2,203

U.S. airstrikes conducted in Iraq and Syria against ISIS

160

British airstrikes conducted in Iraq and Syria against ISIS

3,000

Approximate number of U.S. troops deployed in Iraq

500

Approximate number of Australian troops deployed in Iraq

120

Approximate number of French troops deployed in Iraq

Source: *The Washington Post*

WAR ON TERROR

United States, France team up against ISIS

The French aircraft carrier *Charles de Gaulle* is under U.S. operational command as part of the international effort to dismantle ISIS in Iraq and Syria, *The Washington Post* reports. “The mission marks the first time that France has placed *Charles de Gaulle*, the only non-U.S. nuclear aircraft carrier in the world and a jewel of the French military, under the operational command of a foreign nation,” according to the *Post*. U.S. warplanes are landing on *Charles de Gaulle*, with the French ship operating alongside the carrier USS *Carl Vinson*.



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American Legion photo

MEMORIAM

Legion 'champion' Pete Wheeler remembered

Pete Wheeler, who served as commissioner of the Georgia Department of Veterans Service continuously since 1954, passed away April 21. The World War II Army veteran was a nationally recognized expert on veterans benefits, and a 59-year member and leader of The American Legion.

"Pete Wheeler is one of our champions ... we don't have anybody else like him," said Randy Goodman, commander of the Legion's Department of Georgia. "He has served this state for over 60 years and has created an atmosphere where veterans feel welcome to walk into an office to get a claim done. He was the point man for all areas that affect veterans in the state of Georgia, and advised the governor and carried out all the programs."

A member of James T. Rayle Post 123 in Lexington, Ga., Wheeler was a recipient of the American Legion Gold Honor Medal. After serving four years in the Army, he joined the Georgia Army National Guard, retiring in 1978 at the rank of brigadier general.

Wheeler was appointed chairman of the National World War II Memorial Advisory Board and served in that capacity until the memorial's dedication in May 2004. He was inducted into the inaugural class of the Georgia Military Veterans Hall of Fame in 2013.

One of Wheeler's many accomplishments was to make Georgia an attractive place for veterans to live, Goodman

said, adding that the state has one of the country's fastest-growing veteran populations. "Pete Wheeler earned the respect of all the veterans of Georgia. We love him."

American Legion National Commander Mike Helm said that Wheeler was known throughout the organization as a tireless veterans advocate, "serving Georgia veterans, assuring care and assistance to all. He will be greatly missed, but his legacy will ensure the continued care of all veterans in need."

"He was a champion for every issue that we had for helping veterans," said Dale Barnett of Georgia, the national commander's representative on the Legion's Legislative Commission. "He always said, 'What's good for veterans, I'm all for.' He lived to work for the veteran. Pete was still serving to his last breath."

Wheeler was also famous for running Georgia's top-notch department service officers school, which featured expert speakers and programs on the most timely issues and changes in benefits. "That was always a very well-attended event," Barnett said. "Pete was always on the cutting edge of what was going on with veterans and how to help them."

Past National Commander Jake Comer said, "It will be a while before we get another Pete Wheeler, to do the things he has done for the veterans of Georgia and this nation."

— Philip M. Callaghan

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ASK A SERVICE OFFICER

The Choice Program and emergency care outside VA



Cajun Comeau
Department Service
Officer, North Carolina

Q: What are the particulars of VA's new Choice Program?

A: The Choice Program covers hospital care and medical services under the Medical Benefits Package, which includes pharmacy and other

benefits such as beneficiary travel. All care under the program must be pre-authorized.

To be eligible for the Choice Program, a veteran must meet at least one of the criteria in two separate steps.

Step 1 – Be enrolled in the VA health-care system as of Aug. 1, 2014, or have served on active duty in a combat theater during a period of war after the Persian Gulf War or in combat against a hostile force, and within five years of separation.

Step 2 – Have an appointment more than 30 days from the desired appointment date, or reside more than 40 miles from the nearest VA medical facility measured in shortest driving distance, regardless of services offered. Distance is calculated by address on record. There is no standard system to measure the road distance at this point.

The Choice Program does not include nursing home care or unscheduled (emergency) non-VA care. In the event that non-VA care is sought for an emergent condition, you must meet all of a set of several criteria to claim VA reimbursement; your American Legion service officer or other representative can help you go over the list, which is available online at

www.legion.org/veteranservices/serviceofficersqa

Find an American Legion service officer in your state: www.legion.org/serviceofficers

Do you have a question for Department of North Carolina Service Officer Cajun Comeau about the claims process or veterans benefits in general? Send it to askso@legion.org.



Members of Donaldson/Walker Post 108 visit veterans at Red Bud Assisted Living in Perkins, Okla. Photo courtesy Bobby Bryant

CENTENNIAL

Post 108, Cushing, Okla.

In 2008, Donaldson/Walker Post 108 of Cushing, Okla., established the Payne County Forgotten Warriors Program, which sends post members and local military recruiters to visit veterans in assisted-living facilities, particularly those who may be without living relatives and geographically isolated.

During visits, the veterans receive gifts donated by local businesses and recruiters (the latter personalized by branch of service), and post members take the opportunity to check on their health, VA case statuses, and need for anything from clothing to health aids. The post also organizes ceremonies for Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Christmas and other special occasions.

In 2014, post members visited 69 veterans in the six Payne County-area facilities, and made seven home visits.

Share your post's legacy

Upload photos, stories and videos of your post's history on the Legion's Centennial Celebration website.

www.legion.org/centennial

VERBATIM

If something – God forbid – happens to these, the data is there.

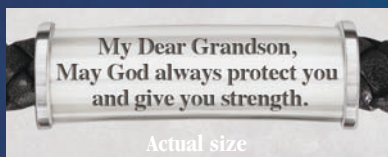
Ben Kacyra, an Iraqi-born engineer and founder of CyArk, a company that specializes in digital preservation of endangered ancient architecture and other treasures by using a portable 3D laser scanner. He plans to "map" more than 500 World Heritage sites in five years.

Source: CNN



MY DEAR GRANDSON, MAY GOD ALWAYS PROTECT YOU AND GIVE YOU STRENGTH

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A meaningful expression of faith and your love, the *"Protection and Strength for My Grandson" Bracelet* is superbly crafted in an original jewelry design. It features a handsome braided genuine leather bracelet. At the center, a cylinder in durable solid stainless steel reveals a diamond-shaped cross set with

a rare genuine black sapphire. The reverse side of the cylinder is finely engraved with the uplifting sentiment, *"My Dear Grandson, May God always protect you and give you strength."* Sized 8½" to fit most wrists, it has a unique stainless steel magnetic clasp, making the bracelet easy to put on or take off.

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PERSONAL FINANCE



Five things to know about flood insurance

FOCUS ON FINANCES



J.J. MONTANARO

I've been lucky. I've never lived in a place where my mortgage lender required flood insurance, and my only face-to-face encounter with a flood was of the self-induced variety. The lesson I learned: a drain cover with thin openings may look good, but will create a problem in a place where leaves tend to gather.

According to the government, floods are the most common and most costly natural disaster. Here are five things you should understand about flood insurance as you look to protect your wallet and property:

■ **It's not part of regular homeowners coverage.** You may be able to buy the coverage (a separate policy) through your insurance company or another company that has an arrangement with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Some private companies offer coverage outside the NFIP, and you may need to go that route if the coverage offered through the government program is not adequate or the price is not competitive.

■ **It's not too expensive.** According to the federal government, the average flood insurance premium is about \$650 per year. Compare that figure to the potential losses

stemming from flood damage and you have a case study on insurance and risk management.

■ **You don't have to be in the flood plain to be vulnerable.**

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, 25 percent of flood claims come from low- to moderate-risk areas. The types of areas where lenders do not require you to purchase flood insurance – and where most of us live.

■ **There are limits.** As far as insurance goes, the NFIP is pretty straightforward. You can cover your residence for up to \$250,000 and contents for up to \$100,000. For additional coverage, talk to your insurer.

■ **You can't wait until flooding is in the forecast.** Typically there's a 30-day waiting period before the policy is effective.

Don't count on luck to keep you out of trouble. Explore your risk and options for flood insurance.

J.J. Montanaro is a certified financial planner with USAA, The American Legion's preferred provider of financial services. Submit questions for him online.

www.legion.org/usaa/focusonfinances

Interested in flood insurance? USAA offers it through the NFIP, and additional solutions if that coverage is not adequate.

www.usaa.com/inet/pages/insurance_home_flood

LEGION BASEBALL

Pickler to perform at Legion World Series



Country music star, "American Idol" alum and North Carolina native Kellie Pickler will be the main attraction at the 7th Inning Stretch Festival in Shelby, N.C., Aug. 8. The

festival coincides with the American Legion World Series (ALWS), played in nearby Keeter Stadium.

An established singer, songwriter and gold-record recording artist, Pickler will perform a free concert that evening. Established in 2013 by Cleveland County ALWS Baseball, Inc., to thank the community for its overwhelming support of the ALWS, the 7th Inning Stretch Festival has become an annual event in Shelby-Cleveland County, offering more activities than ever.

New this year is the Little Miss American Legion World Series Pageant, which will be open to girls from infants to 16. Other activities include a mechanical bull, an obstacle course and a human gyroscope.

www.7thinningstretch.cc

VERBATIM

This was the best thing since iced tea. This should happen everywhere.

Dwight Dunston, an Air Force veteran who attended an American Legion Veterans Benefits Center event in Asheville, N.C., on April 8. He received an increase in his VA disability rating and a retroactive payment.



Photo by Ben Earp



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How to submit a reunion

The American Legion Magazine publishes reunion notices for veterans. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Reunions, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280, e-mail reunions@legion.org or submit information via our website, www.legion.org/reunions.

Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are publicized free of charge.

Your notice will appear on our Web site within a week and will remain available online until the final day of your reunion. Upon submission, please allow three months for your reunion to be published in print. **Due to the large number of reunions, The American Legion Magazine will publish a group's listing only once a year.**

Notices should be sent at least six months prior to the reunion to ensure timely publication.

Other notices

"In Search Of" is a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. **We do not publish listings that seek people for interviews, research purposes, military photos or help in filing a VA claim.** Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as well as a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: "In Search Of," P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail reunions@legion.org.

The magazine will not publish names of individuals, only the name of the unit. Listings are published free of charge.

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life

memberships by their posts. **This does not include a member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership.** Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.**

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your Legion department service officer for information on how to publish a notice.

To respond to a "Comrades in Distress" listing, send a letter to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Comrades in Distress, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.** Include the listing's CID number in your response.

"Taps" notices are published only for Legionnaires who served as department commanders or national officers.

AIR FORCE / ARMY AIR FORCES

6th Bomb Wing (Walker AFB, NM), Roswell, NM, 9/18-19, Bobby Pike, (479) 452-7191, bbpike@aol.com; **14th SOW / Spooky "Puff the Magic Dragon,"** San Antonio, 9/9-12, Junior Skinner, (706) 636-5375, juncherski@embarqmail.com; **15th AAF 451st, 455th, 461st, 465th, 484th & 485th BGS**, Kansas City, MO, 9/24-27, Winslow Jones, (425) 223-2101, winjones@comcast.net; **20th AF Guam Grp**, Branson, MO, 9/10-12, R. Penrod, (217) 932-4286, akpicture@hotmail.com; **126th Air Police Sqdn**, Rapid City, SD, 10/1-3, Thomas Baranski, (901) 683-1206, mortobaran@yahoo.com; **366th Ftr Assn**, Nashville, TN, 8/26-29, David Ledford, (706) 896-2061, davidlannie@windstream.net; **405th Bomb Sqdn (France & Japan)**, Nashville, TN, 9/21-26, Tom Morgan, (352) 220-2230; **AF Postal & Courier Assn**, Savannah, GA, 9/18-20, Ernie Smith, (904) 824-6097, esmith-6@comcast.net; **Det 4 6922nd Sec Wing (Ramasun, Thailand)**, Sandy Hook, CT, 6/5-7, David Minnerly, (847) 359-3578, minnerly@sbcglobal.net; **Laon Air Police Assn, 66th Air Police**, Rapid City, SD, 10/1-3, Robert Norris, (812) 617-2343, norrisrobert55@yahoo.com; **USAF Radar Station Vets**, Dayton, OH, 6/29-7/3, Woody Woodworth, (927) 878-2495, lgwdwrth@roadrunner.com

ARMY

1st Bn 246th Armor, Decatur, MI, 10/10, Gary Sternaman, (517) 531-3481, adjutantgary@gmail.com; **2nd Bn 94th Arty (Vietnam, 1966-1972)**, Williamsburg, VA, 9/28-10/1, Jim Lary, (501) 834-9777, jlary@usa.net; **3rd Inf Rgt "Old Guard,"** Arlington, VA, 9/30-10/4, Martin Cassidy, (914) 738-7205, mjpcatch@aol.com; **7/13th Arty (Vietnam)**, Gettysburg, PA, 9/27-10/2, Robert Adams, (859) 806-5199, cavnamm67@gmail.com; **7th Inf Assn**, Tacoma, MI, 9/4-6, John Stengel, (616) 299-6706, stengeljohn@sbcglobal.net; **12th Armd Div**, Omaha, NE, 7/22-26, John Grebl, (402) 339-1184, grebls@yahoo.com; **14th Cbt Eng Bn**, Olympia, WA, 9/17-20, Jess Huckaby, (612) 802-0442, 14thcnbassocmc@comcast.net; **18th & 54th Avn Co "Otter Nest,"** Houma, LA, 10/8-11, Jeff "Bic" Bickerton, (404) 663-1820, jeffbic@comcast.net; **44th Eng Bn**, Davenport, IA, 9/16-19, Phil Harris, (563) 243-4656, pharris02@mchsi.com; **57th AHC**, Possum Kingdom Lake, TX, 8/28-30, Jim McKenzie, (817) 821-4070, jimnikkimck@embarqmail.com; **82nd Abn Div (Opn Power Pack)**, Fort Bragg, NC, 5/18-22, Rudolph "Rudy" Gulstrand, (440) 331-8859, rgulstrand@att.net; **85th Ord Co (DS) (Vietnam, 1965-1966)**, Little Rock, AR, 6/11-16, Dallas Waterfield, (859) 734-5598, dallaswaterfill@yahoo.com; **87th Eng Bn**, Washington 10/4-10, Dave Johnson, (703) 704-8601, camranh1967@yahoo.com; **101st Abn Div Bravo Co "No Slack" 2nd Bn 327th Inf (Vietnam)**, Branson, MO, 9/16-20, Lloyd King, (337) 233-9555, lkgolf@aol.com;

187th AHC, Orange Beach, AL, 11/7-12, Ray Root, (251) 213-8846, rayroot1@gmail.com; **238th Eng Cbt Bn Assn**, Concord, NC, 7/16-19, James Druck, (717) 318-2617, jim-druck@verizon.net; **263rd, 317th & 614th LEM**, Charleston, IL, 10/14-18, Jack McCabe, (847) 778-3473, jmccabe51@gmail.com; **282nd AHC**, Columbus, TX, 10/9-11, John Bard, (936) 558-7639, blkatmail@suddenlink.net; **304th Sig Opns Bn (All Yrs)**, Kansas City, MO, 9/15-17, Eber Janzen, (608) 524-3631, budsmart1@yahoo.com; **509th Eng Co (Panel Bridge)**, Junction City, KS, 9/3-6, Jerry V. Sexton, (405) 373-0354, lindasexton@sbcglobal.net; **536th MP Co FRG**, Leavenworth, WA, 9/16-21, Chris Walton, (978) 342-9100, attycjw@aol.com; **560th MP Co (Vietnam)**, Kokomo, IN, 9/18-20, Ralph Hildebrand, (330) 605-4457, massillonman37@gmail.com; **577th Eng Bn**, Branson, MO, 9/10-13, Jim Stevens, (704) 363-5358, jrs562@aol.com; **629th Ord Co (Qui Nhon, Vietnam)**, Gatlinburg, TN, 9/14-18, Gary Matthews, (712) 485-2422, gmatt41347@aol.com; **630th Eng Co LE (Vietnam)**, Branson, MO, 9/17-20, Cecil Brown, (713) 415-6460, cecilnbrown@charter.net; **630th MP Co (1965-1972)**, Washington, 10/5-10, Roger Merrillat, (419) 445-7220, rkmerillat@gmail.com; **A Co 7th Eng Bn 5th Inf Div (Vietnam)**, Pittsburgh, 9/10-14, Joe Love, (408) 691-3691, joe@legion-rider.com; **Americal Div Vets Assn (23rd Inf Div)**, Norfolk, VA, 10/28-11/1, Larry Swank, (301) 892-0855, lsbank@aol.com; **ASA Okinawa**, Kissimmee, FL, 9/23-27, Gary Duenow, (319) 393-2234, thuede60@yahoo.com; **AVEL Far North, North, Central & South**, Charleston, SC, 10/14-18, Jack McCabe, (847) 778-3473, jmccabe51@gmail.com; **C Co 75th Inf Charlie Rangers (Vietnam)**, Pine Ridge, SD, 6/4-7, Frank Marshall, (605) 867-5577, nativevets@goldenwest.net; **Combat Infantrymen's Assn**, San Antonio, 10/1-4, Larry Eckard, (828) 256-6008, combatinfantrymensassn@yahoo.com; **Delta Co 1/12 Inf "Red Warriors" 4th Inf Div (Vietnam)**, St. Louis, 6/12-13, Steve Hubbard, (660) 679-7619, www.4thinfantry.org; **Polar Bear Patch**, Rock Island, IL, 9/14-18, Donald Bayr, (727) 289-6668, conniebayt@msn.com; **Sig Corps OCS Assn**, San Antonio, 10/9-12, Richard Kerns, (615) 391-0867, rkerns99@bellsouth.net

COAST GUARD

All CG Reunion, Hopkins, MN, 6/20, Mike Roberts, (320) 654-9399, mike.roberts41@gmail.com; **Lightship Sailors Assn**, New London, CT, 10/19-21, Bill Quigley, (603) 966-8690, wanderingmanitook1@msn.com; **Woodbine**, Grand Haven, MI, 7/29-8/1, John Krueger, (616) 735-0085, jkrueger20@comcast.net

JOINT

Berlin Airlift Vets Assn, Oklahoma City, 9/30-10/3, J.W. Studak, (512) 452-0903; **Bronco**

Fest, Fort Worth, TX, 10/7-11, Angela Engele, aengele@ftwaviation.com; **Florida's 28th Annual Vietnam & All Vets Reunion**, Melbourne, FL, 4/23-26, Richard "Doc" Russo, (321) 652-4185, rarusso1962@gmail.com; **Geodetic Survey Sqdn/Grp**, Cheyenne, WY, 7/31-8/2, Garrett Moore, (703) 266-3293, garrettmoore@verizon.net; **Nebraska Vietnam Vets Reunion**, North Platte, NE, 8/20-23, Tom Leet, (308) 532-6798, www.vetsreunion.com; **Saratoga Assn CV 3 & CV/CVA 60 (Ship's Co, Air Wing Personnel & Mar Det)**, Norfolk, VA, 10/8-11, Billi Lack, (513) 315-2251, ussaratoganewsletter@gmail.com; **Wexford County LST 1168**, Charleston, SC, October 2016, Larry Condra, (314) 994-1187, wexford.county.reunion@aol.com; **Yorktown CV/CVA/CVS 10 (Crew, Air Grps, Sqdns & Mar Det, 1943-1970)**, Mount Pleasant, SC, 10/1-3, T.E. "Ed" Hewitt, (843) 849-1928, yorktowncv10association@gmail.com

MARINES

1st Bn 3rd Mar (All Yrs), Orlando, FL, 8/11-16, Richard Cleary, (520) 487-0327, clearyrp@msn.com; **2nd Bn 1st Mar Rgt**, San Diego, 11/5-9, Mario Sagastume, (530) 343-9481, choncho0331@sbcglobal.net; **2nd Bn 1st Mar Rgt 1st Mar Div (Korea, 1950-1955)**, Washington, 7/8-11, George Coyle, (732) 254-2787, gtc1528@optimum.net; **3rd 155mm & 175mm Gun Btrys (SP)**, San Diego, 10/1-3, Ed Kirby, (978) 987-1920, ed-kiirby@comcast.net; **3rd Bn 4th Mar Assn**, San Diego, 8/26-30, Travis Fryzowicz, (732) 251-5518, maddogandgrace@verizon.net; **Bty Adjust 3/11 Mar (All Yrs)**, Charleston, SC, 9/23-27, Doug Miller, (402) 540-9431, dmiller48@gmail.com; **E Co 2nd Bn 7th Mar (Vietnam)**, Boston, 8/25-29, Bill Dyer, (904) 783-4116, parthrees@comcast.net; **FLC: FLSG-A, FLSG-B & All Sub Units**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 10/4-8, James Corcoran, (772) 546-1925, usmccork@hotmail.com; **Missouri BB 63 Mar Det (All Yrs)**, Perrysburg, OH, 9/10-12, Matthew Dallas, (419) 868-1234; **VMO-2 (Vietnam)**, Pensacola Beach, FL, 9/10-15, Jerry Maziar, (708) 514-2776, jmaziar@simconco.com

NAVY

67th & 5th Seabees (WWII), Cleveland, OH, 8/12-16, Laurence Terry, (502) 937-8921; **Agerholm DD 826**, Oklahoma City, 10/8-11, Donovan Baldwin, (618) 599-5972, dab315@frontier.com; **Altair AKS 32**, Branson, MO, 10/11-15, Dan Douglas, (204) 966-1851, ddouglas@aol.com; **Amphibious Force Vets Assn**, Chattanooga, TN, 9/6-9, John Walsh, (732) 367-6472; **Attack Sqdn 65**, Geneva, IL, 9/23-27, Steve Brinker, (765) 345-9302, sbrink@embarqmail.com; **AV 7/AV 12/AD 24 Combined Reunion**, Washington, 9/16-20, Thomas Cetnarowski, (715) 325-2367, ctnar42@yahoo.com; **Aylwin FF 1081**, Tampa, FL, 10/15-18, Glenn Hunsberger, (757) 287-5429, glenn_hunsberger@yahoo.com; **Bainbridge, MD, NTC (1942-1976)**,

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Recently, I found myself struggling to "perform." I began losing my confidence and with it, my sense of "male prowess". I was feeling a great deal of pressure and embarrassment, my wife was beginning to think it was something she did or didn't do – it wasn't.

I wasn't comfortable discussing my situation with anyone – not even my doctor – so in a desperate attempt to find some help, I privately did some research on the web.

First, I found that many **HEALTHY** men experience a decrease in virility with age. **I wasn't alone!** Good blood circulation is the key to maintaining virility, and there are a number of factors that can weaken it.

Armed with this new information, I began to search through the many "male enhancement" products on the net. I found a pill and patch for everything and anything, but **one product stood out among them - PROZEMAX is completely different – not a pill or a patch, this surprisingly effective topical formula is delivered directly to the "source" – where I needed it most.** Best of all, **PROZEMAX is recommended by a Leading Physician**, and you don't need a prescription. I don't need to swallow a pill, prescription or not, or wear some kind of patch on my shoulder!

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Jim S.
Miami, FL

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419-9756, jcap02@aol.com; **Mississippi EAG 128**, Atlanta, 10/5-8, Paul Shepley, (910) 256-6173, eag128reunion@yahoo.com; **Mountrail APA 213**, Biloxi, MS, 10/12-15, Don DiCoito, (973) 725-1974, dicoito44@aol.com; **Navy Corpsmen**, Gulfport, MS, 9/23-27, Awtrey Peace, (850) 626-1125, pawtrey78@yahoo.com; **Navy Lithographers**, Nashville, TN, 10/21-24, John Belrose, (540) 785-8250, navylithographers@gmail.com; **NR SIMA Portsmouth Det 501**, Newport, RI, 8/14-16, Dave Oliveria, (860) 526-1460, daveoliveria@yahoo.com; **O'Brien DD 725**, Colorado Springs, CO, 9/15-20, Jim Wittenburg, (719) 265-8443, jwittenburg@comcast.net; **Oriskany CV/CVA 34 (Crew, Sqdns, Marines & Officers)**, Lincoln, NE, 10/4-7, Donovan Eskesen, (815) 842-4132, dece1968@yahoo.com; **Perry DD 844/FFG 7**, Virginia Beach, VA, 9/24-28, John Guariniello, (727) 868-9368, jandlassoc@aol.com; **Philadelphia CL 41**, St. Petersburg, FL, 10/6-10, Helen Stevener-Mowrer, (727) 526-2922, c_hmowrer@msn.com; **Pickaway APA 222**, Tulsa, OK, 9/17-20, Jim Crawford, (828) 256-6008, sailor@catt.com; **Piedmont AD 17**, Albany, NY, 9/16-20, Kent Thomas, (913) 381-8934, kthomasgolf@aol.com; **Radford DD/DDE 446**, Portland, OR, 9/23-27, Charles Parsons, (304) 927-0094, ussradford@gmail.com; **Rainier AE 5**, Albuquerque, NM, 10/21-25, Bill Welch, (918) 386-2449, scrapped1@live.com; **Saipan CVL 48**, Jacksonville, FL, 9/15-18, Thomas Pendergast, (772) 770-0115, tpend3533@aol.com; **Saratoga**, Norfolk, VA, 10/8-11, Jerry Ferrara, (800) 360-7272, elvisj4@verizon.net; **Schofield DEG/FFG 3**, Chicago, 9/10-13, Mark Fletcher, (413) 773-3211, gunnerfletch@hotmail.com; **Sea Cat SS 399**, Mobile, AL, 10/19-23, Ed Hymer, (515) 981-3006; **Simon Lake AS 33**, Annapolis, MD, 9/20-24, John Craig, (732) 752-7534, fmf8103@aol.com; **Springfield**, Charleston, SC, 9/13-16, Richard Wilson, (425) 736-6899, graham98338@comcast.net; **Terrill County LST 1157**, San Diego, 9/24-26, Clovis Long, (417) 438-3704, clovis43@hotmail.com; **Thompson DD 627/DMS 38**, Branson, MO, 9/13-18, William J. Luttig, (402) 393-5178, williamluttig@cox.net; **Tin Can Sailors Nat'l Reunion**, Warwick, RI, 8/23-27, Terry Miller, (800) 223-5535, nationalreunion@destroyers.org; **Tortuga LSD 26/46**, Pittsburgh, 9/9-13, Roger Harbison, (309) 364-2904, reh@mchsi.com; **Underhill DE 682**, Annapolis, MD, 7/24, John Grandinetti, (917) 306-3584, grand33@aol.com; **Van Voorhis DE 1028**, Cincinnati, 9/10-13, Marc Arsenaault, (508) 248-5072; **VF-11 "Red Rippers"**, Pensacola, FL, 8/24-28, Dick Fraley, (434) 348-0611, jejeusnret1@hotmail.com; **Vreeland DE/FF 1068**, Charleston, SC, 4/20-24, Mark Smith, (817) 454-5051, mlsmith100000@aol.com; **VS-21 (1952-1972)**, San Diego, 9/27-10/1, Jeff Weisel, (760) 612-4376, jsweisel@yahoo.com; **Warrington DD 843**, Annapolis, MD, 9/27-10/1, Stan Prager, (916) 791-6700, stashuman843@msn.com; **Washoe County LST 1165**, Sacramento, CA, 9/16-20, Dennis Steenberg, (303) 470-1187, dsteenbergen1165@gmail.com; **Worden DLG/CG 18**, San Diego, 10/14-17, Dennis Royer, (717) 733-9223, dlgl8@dejazzd.com

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

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Post 355, WI: Nicholas Schanen

IN SEARCH OF

2nd Armd Rifle Bn 4th Armd Div 50th Inf B Co (Erlanger, Germany, 1961-1963), Jerry Manning, (706) 226-2500
3rd Aerial Port Sqdn (Lawson AFB, Fort Benning, GA, 1953-1954), Harry Fields, (256) 679-7746
3rd Sec Police Sqdn C Flt (Bien Hoa AB, Vietnam, 1971-1972), Richard Garofalo, (718) 987-0877
412th MMS Bomb Dump (Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam, 1965-1966), Larry Derr, (814) 466-6939

415th & 449th Army Band (Fort Chaffee, AR, 1956-1958), Bruce Siemsen, (785) 787-8705, bhsddks@hbcomm.net
433rd TFS "Satan's Angels" (Ubon Royal Thai AFB, 1969), Edward Schwartz, (863) 990-1021, elssllc@gmail.com
590th Trans Co (Flak Kaserne, Ludwigsburg, Germany), Robert Bandi, (815) 633-2181, r.band@comcast.net
1993rd AACs Sqdn (Kimpoo AB, Korea, 1952), Richard Colborn, (724) 836-0718, colby1933@comcast.net
4925th Test Grp (Atomic), 4926th Test Sqdn (Sampling) & 4927th Support Sqdn (Kirtland AFB, Albuquerque, NM, May 1953-Dec 1956), Ed Rydzak, (724) 228-8521, littleman2158@aol.com
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All U.S. Forces & Foreign Allies (France, June 1944-Apr 1967), David Brubaker, (570) 265-9647, davidwbrubaker@gmail.com
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C Co 83rd Eng Bn (Const) (Captieux Ord Depot, France, 1954-1955), Philip Vein, (818) 519-9127, filpv44@aol.com
G Co 172nd Inf 43rd Div (1950-1952), Bernie Shaban, (802) 674-9770
MSQ-28 Det 38th Arty Bde (Fort Bliss, TX, July-Oct 1962), Charles Tharp, (575) 644-0080, cltharp@zianet.com
Plt 237 (Parris Island, SC, 1972), Charles Rogers, (318) 401-8277, rcharles818@yahoo.com
VF-24 (NAS Miramar, CA, 1965-1969), Ken Davis, (814) 735-2042

TAPS

Leo F. Malloy, Dept. of Massachusetts. Dept Cmdr. 1967-1968, Nat'l Vice Cmdr. 1975-1976, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 1964-1965, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1983-1985, Nat'l Counter Subversive Activi. Cmte. Chmn 1978-1983, Nat'l Veterans Employment & Education NEC Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1969-1971 and 1973-1975, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1969-1975, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cmsn. Memb. 1976-1978, Nat'l Military Affairs Cmte. Memb 1967-1969 and 1985-2005, Nat'l Mil. Affairs Cmte. Vice Chmn. 2005-2009, Nat'l Mil' Affairs Cmte. Chmn. 2009-2013, Nat'l Mil. Benefits & Quality of Life Cmte. 2013-2015, Nat'l Rehab. Advisory Board Memb. 1957-1959, Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1964-1967, Nat'l Sec. Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1971-1973 and Nat'l Sec' Tng. Cmte. Memb. 1955-1957.
Wendall J. "Sandy" Sandell, Dept. of Pennsylvania. Dept. Cmdr. 2008-2009, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 2014-2015, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1997-2002, Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 2009, Nat'l Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Cmsn. Memb. 2005-2008 and 2009-2010, Nat'l Veterans Benefits Cmte. Chmn. 2013-2015, Nat'l Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Cmsn. Region 2 Chmn. 2004-2005, Nat'l Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Cmsn. Region 2 Vice Chmn. 2003-2004, Nat'l Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Cmsn. Region 2 Memb. 2002-2003 and Nat'l Veterans Pref. Cmte. Chmn. 2010-2013.
Frances A. Swensen, Dept. of Kansas. Nat'l Children & Youth Cmsn. Midwestern Area Memb. 1975-1979, Nat'l Children & Youth Cmsn. Region 6 Memb. 1981-1984, 1986-1987, 1989-1990, 1992-1993, 1995-1996, 1998-1999, 2001-2002 and 2004-2011, Nat'l Children & Youth Cmsn. Region 6 Chmn. 1980-1981, 1985-1986, 1988-1989, 1991-1992, 1994-1995, 1997-1998, 2000-2001 and 2003-2004, and Nat'l Children & Youth Cmsn. Region 6 Vice Chmn. 1979-1980, 1984-1985, 1987-1988, 1990-1991, 1993-1994, 1996-1997, 1999-2000 and 2002-2003.

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The corporal trudged up the mountain. As soon as he crossed the ridge, he saw a squadron of planes heading their way.

"Planes coming!" he promptly radioed back.

"Friends or enemies?" the commanding officer demanded.

The corporal again lifted his binoculars to the sky. "They're flying very close together," he replied. "I think they must be friends."

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"Well, here we go," she said. "I love transatlantic flights, only I can never sleep on planes. I'm so glad I have a nice person sitting next to me. I love meeting new people. How are you?"

Her seatmate thought fast and responded, "Parlez-vous français?"



"You're not yourself today. To what do I owe this unique pleasure?"



"You're the father of – no, let's wait until the TV station gets here."



ONE PARTYGOER tried to impress another by boasting about his exploits at sea.

"After the ship went down," he said, "I survived a week in open water on just a can of sardines."

"Wow!" his companion replied. "However did you keep from falling off?"

MY GRANDPARENTS lost their life savings on a cruise. What my grandfather thought was a wall safe was actually a porthole.

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